

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine



Radio Club of Tacoma

Happy Holidays



**New! ID-52A Plus
60th Anniversary
p. 78**

In this issue:

- **The History of NOISE REDUCTION in radio systems! p. 30**
- **The REAL story of the Wouff Hong & Rettysnitch! p. 21**
- **Holiday Gift Ideas for Ham Radio Operators! p. 25**
- **Bigfoot Special Event—CERTIFICATES are mailed! p. 53**
- **W7DK Soldering Class—A RESOUNDING Success! p. 41**
- **Techs: WHY should you upgrade to General? p. 84**
- **Old School Telegraphy Tech—the MILL! What is it? p. 65**
- **The 1970s MYSTERY box! Can you guess its purpose? p. 27**
- **All about the G5RV vs. the ZS6BKW antennas! p. 81**



Cover photo illustration by
W7UUU using Creative Commons
public-domain components

www.W7DK.org

Radio Club of Tacoma
1249 South Washington Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
253-759-2040

W7DK

Open House every Saturday
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Last Saturday every month is
Swapmeet Day

Radio Club of Tacoma

Founded 1916

JOIN NOW!

W7DK 2024 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary: Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Board: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board: Paul Matney W7PFU
Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

KEY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Salmon Run: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Infotech/IT: Randy WB4SPB
HF Operations: Phil K7PIA
Facilities: Adam W2NCC
Property Mgmt. Red WB7EC
Museum: Dan KD7SV
Planning: Manny AD7MA
POTA: BJ KO7T
General Meeting: Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor: Dave W7UUU
Assistant/Copy Editor: Anne N7ANN

CONTENTS**QUICK LINKS TO THE BIG STUFF!**

PAGE 4	PRESIDENT'S CORNER
PAGE 5	FROM THE DESK OF THE VP
PAGE 6	THE SECRETARY'S REPORT
PAGE 7	FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
PAGE 8	PLANNING COMMITTEE
PAGE 9	MEMBERSHIP REPORT
PAGE 10	HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS
PAGE 12	ARRL NEWS & VIEWS
PAGE 14	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
PAGE 89	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
PAGE 109	GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**But don't stop there! Each issue is
50 or more pages of fun and cool
stuff to explore! Scroll on!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

loggersbark@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered



In memory of
Steve Dightman, AF7YD
May 26, 1945–November 13, 2024

With great sadness, we report the loss of long-time club member, club Treasurer, and friend to all, Steve Dightman **AF7YD**, member #512. Steve passed away peacefully in a hospice care facility on November 13, 2024. He became interested in electricity and electronics at an early age, while in the 4th grade in Seattle. He and his sisters Maureen and Donna even built a mock radio station around that time, with Steve as the disc jockey. In seventh grade, he won first prize in his school's Science Fair for demonstrating stereophonic sound reproduction, years before the general public had any idea what that even meant.

In 1961, Steve's mother offered him the chance to enroll in a "Ham Radio Course" at the local trade school, Bates Technical College in downtown Tacoma, WA where his teacher was none other than Jerry Seligman, **W7BUN**—who was soon to be one of the icons of training at the radio club. Steve joined the Radio Club of Tacoma on August 8, 1962, and very quickly became active in all sorts of activities with the club. One of his favorite club activities over many years was Field Day which he attended for many years. He was also very active in his early days with Emergency Communications with the club, back when much of it was done on 6-meters AM. This was one of his many passions with club activities. In his final years, he became the club's treasurer—a job at which he excelled. Steve was also instrumental in coordinating Youth on the Air sorts of activities, including BSA events such as Jamboree on the Air, and most recently with Camp Quest Northwest, where he was very involved sharing amateur radio with their group of teens. Steve will truly be missed by all. ■ *-editor*



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Mike Mikuchonis
W7XTZ

HELLO GANG AND MERRY CHRISTMAS! Let's also honor others with Happy Hannukah & Happy Kwanzaa. Be sure to attend our annual Banquet & Awards presentation on December 8th at the Collins Grange located at 3404 120th St E, just off of Waller Road, for good food, award presentations and some great door prizes.

The banquet starts at 12:30 with helper elves setting up at Noon or earlier. If you can't attend we will also be live on Zoom using the same Zoom credentials as we would for a regular meeting. A ham & smoked turkey will be provided by the club, but this is a Pot Luck event for everything else so bring your crowd-pleasing sides, salads and desserts. Hot coffee & soft drinks will also be available.

The Banquet is a time to thank & honor members that have worked tirelessly to make our club work. We've had many fun events and some great leaders to make sure that members can participate. There are members that maintain club equipment, maintain our facilities and help raise money for our coffers. There is a lot of behind the scenes (or behind the curtain) stuff that happens by many supporting members. Let's honor these hardworking people for all that they do.

The Banquet is also a time where we can have the important people in our lives, namely the XYs &

OMs that support and allow us to participate in our hobby, by our side to see who is holding the reins so we don't get too crazy! Let's also remember our Silent Keys that are no longer with us. We remember them not with sadness but with admiration & fondness for the friendships that were made and the knowledge that they shared.

We also have some new officers and board members climbing aboard so let's welcome them. I seem to remember that [Chris Ledoux sang about an 8 second ride](#),

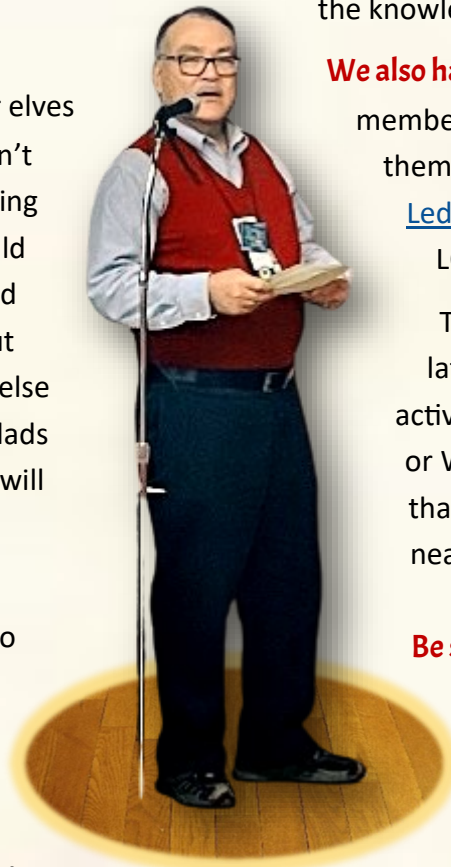
LOL! Well, it's only a couple of years.

The weather hasn't been friendly lately but there has been some POTA activations regardless. Get yourself and/or W7DK noticed on the air. Drag out that tarp and rain gear and set up at a nearby park.

Be sure to keep on eye on the club website for upcoming POTA activations or ask BJ, the POTA King, about upcoming events. Of course, there's nothing stopping you from setting up portable and working the world.

Well, that's enough ramblings from this mad man. Hope to see you at the clubhouse and the banquet. 73 for now and I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family & friends.

-Mike W7XTZ



FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

Insights from our Vice President

Adam Barbera
W2NCC

MY JOURNEY WITH THE SASQUATCH AWARENESS SPECIAL EVENT

When I first heard that our club, W7DK, was going to host the Sasquatch Awareness Special Event, I was excited to take part. I had participated in such events like the 13 Colonies and Route 66, but I had never actually helped run one. This would be a new experience for me and a chance to learn how special events are organized and managed.

There was only one problem—my new office and ham shack were not set up yet. Most of my radio equipment was still packed away in boxes.

Only my IC-7610 was on the desk, but my Cushcraft R9 antenna had been taken down after eight years for cleaning and tuning. With my day job and other responsibilities taking up most of my time, I worried about getting everything ready before the special event started in just two weeks. I decided that I would help out with the club's Sasquatch event and work with whatever equipment I could set up in time. It turned out to be the right decision.

I cleaned the Cushcraft R9 and applied conductive grease to all the aluminum connections as I reassembled it. I took my amplifier out of storage

and set it up. But I hit a snag—the connector cable for my IC-7610 was the wrong one for my headset and foot switch. The new cable I needed wouldn't arrive until the middle of the event, so I set up a desk mic instead. While a desk mic isn't ideal for logging, it would have to do.

My station was simple and on the air for the

Sasquatch Awareness event. I used a borrowed spud launcher to get a G5RV antenna installed. Even though my ham shack wasn't fully ready and my equipment setup wasn't perfect, it was thrilling to participate and operate.

The excitement of working a special event, even with some challenges, reminded me why I love ham radio so much. During the event, I made 29 DX contacts, including France, Germany, Poland, Russia, and New Zealand. It's not just about having the perfect setup; it's about enjoying the experience and learning along the way. Remember, ham radio is always about having fun!

-Adam W2NCC



SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



IT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING YEAR!

Well, when I am writing this, it is actually still November, but we are entering the busy holiday season and it's time to reflect on how the year went...

To start out, this was my first year as RCT Secretary and I finally remember how to spell **Secretary** without prompting now! But seriously, it has been a learning experience for me and believe me, there's a bit of a steep learning curve thrown in there!

Then, there's also my commitment to the HF committee. I'm happy to say that at this time in early November, we are finally closing in on the last bit of equipment in the HF room, that being our long awaited Palstar LA-1k amp! By the time this report is published, it will be in the HF room making watts for the "Mighty DK's! It was a long journey, but will be well worth it in the end.

Also of note is our new meeting place for our General Meetings. We are now meeting every Second Saturday at the Eagles Arie #2933 at 72nd and Pine in Tacoma. Club Facilities manager Adam Barbera W2NCC worked very hard to get us this space and at

a nice price. It is a very nice place to have our meetings. There is now a full kitchen along with a bar. A good combination of services to liven up a meeting or two!

As most of you probably already know, there are many things to do at the Radio Club of Tacoma and most of these things / activities have committees that concentrate on those activities. There is a

complete list of the committees on the website, strangely enough, under the "Committees" tab. Take a look at those committees to see if anyone of them look interesting. Some of the committees on the list are inactive or at least not very active but don't be shy, if one looks like something that you might be interested in and there is a committee

chair listed, just ask them if you can join in. If there's no chairperson listed, guess what? You're It!

Ok, I'm running up on my allotted word salad limit, I'll just close with this: Have a great and happy holiday season, stay safe, travel safe and enjoy the time with friends and family!

73, Gary **WG7X**
Secretary, Radio Club of Tacoma





I HOPE THAT EVERYONE READING THIS had a restful and joyous Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends. Here in the Pacific Northwest we were surely blessed with wonderful weather—travel was nice and traffic was light most of the day.

I'm coming to the end of my first year as Editor of *The Logger's Bark*—it's really been a lot of fun turning it into more than a newsletter but a full-blown magazine. And I sincerely thank those officers and committee chairs for their monthly contributions.

Looking forward to 2025, I've made an effort to "tighten up" the design and layout of *The Bark* going forward. This will hopefully result in a more streamlined production. To that end, I've spent the last few days redesigning the page layout Excel form I use to track my progress in building each month. This should cut a few hours from each month's editorial time and that will be welcome.

I have also found a very workable and stable solution of converting *The Bark* from Publisher into PDF prior to each publication—and I really think the problems of recent months should now be fully resolved. This means I can continue uninterrupted in layout and publication using Microsoft Publisher, at

least through another full year.

And to the readers around the U.S. and the world who have found *The Logger's Bark* via the monthly front-page link on QRZ, thank you so much for downloading each monthly issue! It has been very rewarding not only to me but to our club as a whole to know that

folks around the planet are learning about The Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK, and all that it has to offer its members. If only the founders of the club, way back in 1916 could see just how far and wide we have reached by taking this publication to the Worldwide

Web! And of course to all who

have sent emails of support as well as actual editorial content (articles, letters, and photos), I offer a very sincere "Thank You—you are appreciated!"

Be watching for more entertaining content to continue to flow on these pages in the coming months. I find that with each issue, I have more things to write about and publish than I have time to make it happen.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year for 2025,

-Dave W7UUU, Editor



Dave W7UUU at "The Editor's Desk"





THE PLANNING COMMITTEE RECENTLY CONVENED for its final meeting of the year.

Many of the committee members are already actively engaged in various capacities within the club. Vice President Adam **W2NCC**, and BJ **K07T** shared some information from their activities. You will also read more from Adam and BJ in their respective columns and so I am sharing a summary here.

Adam **W2NCC** reported that the inaugural soldering workshop was a resounding success, with thirteen participants. Notably, eight YL (young lady) hams participated in the class. As previously communicated, we are expanding upon this initiative, and we have already received expressions of interest from the initial participants for future workshops. Covering potentially many other topics.

BJ **K07T** reported that in total, the club achieved over 15,000 QSOs during the Sasquatch Appreciation Day Special Event. To date, we have received well over 600+ requests for QSL cards and certificates. On Monday evening November 11, BJ led a full-on “envelope opening and sorting party”. The following Sunday afternoon, the arduous task of completing certificates and QSL cards was undertaken to great success. Of course, as more requests keep coming in, this process will be repeated a number of times.

For this, the final meeting of 2024, the committee covered other important topics including Club events and our Social Media presence.

Ham Fair—a long tradition of the RCT was also a hot topic. It was discontinued around 2011 but we very

much want to consider bringing it back. The committee has initiated preliminary discussions regarding the potential revival of the W7DK Ham Fair. Historically, this event was a significant gathering for the amateur radio community in the region, and was much more than a Swapmeet.

It was previously associated with the ARRL Convention. While it may not be able to entice the ARRL event away from Seaside, Oregon, there appears to be a subset of RCT club members with a fond remembrance of this event and would welcome its reintroduction of this event in some capacity. The committee will continue to investigate this possibility in upcoming meetings.

Lastly, we addressed the topic of social media, which was given considerable attention. This platform, a primary driver of communication among the younger generation, presents a significant opportunity for our club. To harness this medium effectively, we are exploring proposals for the establishment of a Social Media Team. This dedicated group would manage all official club accounts, ensuring consistent and professional representation. With our membership now exceeding 360 and continuing to grow, the need for a robust social media presence is more pressing than ever.

The Planning Committee will take time off for the holiday and will convene again in January 2025.

Have a great and safe holiday season all!

-Manny **AD7MA**, Chairman, Planning Committee



HELLO EVERYONE! I WANT TO EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

to everyone in the club for entrusting me with the role of Membership Chairman over the past few years. When I responded to George's (K7GRS) request for help with the club's membership duties, I had no idea what I was getting myself into! But, thanks to George's guidance and mentoring, I quickly found my footing and came to appreciate the unique challenges and rewards of this role. Thank you, George!

I've discovered that my busiest time each year is from August through December, with renewals, events, and other membership activities keeping me on my toes. This year, though, I could use a bit more of your help to make the process smoother for everyone involved!

In September, we had another successful Washington State QSO Party, also known as the Salmon Run. As one of our major fundraisers, this event is crucial, and we did very well this year. However, I've heard from several members who have not yet completed their pledges, and there are some outstanding pledges we're still waiting on. It's not too late to make your donation toward the Salmon Run if you haven't already! Every contribution helps the club continue offering the activities and resources we all enjoy.

In October, I mailed out membership renewal notices to all our current members. I'm happy to report that many

renewals have already come in, but there are still plenty outstanding. Processing each renewal and updating the membership database takes time, so your timely response is greatly appreciated.

Now, here's where I could really use your assistance! With the holiday season approaching and all that it brings, I kindly ask everyone to send in their donations and membership renewals as soon as possible. Remember, you don't have to wait until December 31, 2024, to handle your charitable giving. Wink, wink! Getting it

done early helps us maintain accurate records and minimizes the holiday rush.

For your convenience, there are multiple ways to submit your payment. You can drop off your donations or membership renewals at the clubhouse on Saturdays, put them in the mail, or use the PayPal donation link available on our website's homepage. If you're using PayPal, please add a note specifying where you'd like your funds



applied.

Finally, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas party on December 8th! It'll be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season, welcome our new club officers, and honor members during the awards ceremony. Let's make it a memorable afternoon for all!

-Mike W7XH

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



By N1UW

LONGEST OPERATING HAM SATELLITE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

OSCAR Satellites (Orbital Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio) are built by members of the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation ([AMSAT](#)). Many members have been employees at Goddard Space Flight Center and similar companies or organizations that are central to U.S. space programs. They pioneered the concept of using secondary payloads in place of ballast to manage the center-of-gravity requirements for a launch. Although [OSCAR-7](#) was largely built on the basement workbenches of AMSAT volunteer engineers. It still had to pass the rigorous tests required of any space-bound vehicles – perhaps even more so. The owner of the primary payload, NOAA-4/ITOS-G, had to be assured that the adjacent payload, built by a bunch of “hobbyists,” would not jeopardize the mission.

Largely designed and built with relatively-new CMOS chip technology of the early 1970s, NASA engineers predicted that OSCAR-7 would last perhaps one to three years. Given the fact that the components were not radiation hardened, even that was felt to be generously optimistic. Yet, OSCAR-7 lived long enough to make several important contributions. It is believed to host the first ground-to-satellite-to-satellite-to-ground communications. Following the nearly identical orbit of its predecessor, [OSCAR-6](#), the two satellites occasionally lapped each other and provided ground stations the opportunity to pass messages between the two satellites before returning to earth. More significantly, OSCAR-7 was used to investigate the possibility of locating downed aircraft and disabled sea vessels by using Doppler analysis of signals from emergency location transmitters (ELT's). Scientists from the Russian COSPAR/U.S. SARSAT teams simulated ELT's on amateur radio stations and

demonstrated how receiving and relaying ELT transmissions and analyzing Doppler shift as OSCAR-7 passed overhead could accurately locate the emergency beacons. As a result of this test using an amateur radio satellite, the COSPAR/SARSAT program is credited with saving over 57,000 lives in over 17,000 mishaps.

Eventually, OSCAR-7 came to lead a double life. After its batteries shorted and failed, its first life ended in 1981 after 6.5 years of faithful operation. Due to the design of the power system, the shorted batteries cut off the available power from the solar cells. Remarkably, 21 years later in June, 2002, an amateur radio operator heard OSCAR-7's telemetry beacon. This reception was confirmed by radio operators



Original 1974 artist's rendering of OSCAR-7

around the world. It can only be guessed that a battery reverted to an open state and power from the solar cells was restored.

OSCAR-7 is now affectionately referred to as the “Sleeping Beauty” of satellites and continues to provide ground-breaking scientific contributions. Using years of analysis of orbital data, OSCAR-7 engineers were able to confirm the existence of orbital perturbances, or disturbances that were previously predicted by NASA scientists.

How much longer will OSCAR-7 function? Its telemetry beacon has become somewhat erratic in the past few months and its radio transponders now change modes unpredictably. Regardless of its remaining life, OSCAR-7 has found its place in the record books for the foreseeable future.

Persons interested in a detailed account of OSCAR-7's development and history can visit [THIS LINK](#).

-Frank, N1UW, via QRZ News ■ -editor

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



By Paige **W0FLZ**

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CQ USA COUNTY AWARD?

You might be wondering what will happen to the awards sponsored by CQ magazine now that it has gone "SK." Let me fill you in on the status of one of those awards: the USA-Counties Award (also known as the USA-CA). This prestigious award is issued for making confirmed contacts with all 3,077 counties across the United States, with various achievement levels culminating in "The Whole Ball of Wax" for completing all counties. This is actually quite a challenge!

With CQ magazine no longer in operation, it's clear they are no longer handling the award program. However, there is still good news for those pursuing this challenging feat! The CQ USA-CA Award Manager, Brian, **NX0X**, currently has around 20 of the highly-coveted original paper certificates remaining. He is willing to issue these only to hams who submit a valid application for the full "Whole Ball of Wax" achievement (all 3,077 counties). If you're close to completing this award, I *highly* recommend you finalize your application while certificates are still available. Brian has indicated that once these certificates are gone, he will officially retire the program. Completing this award involves not only contacting all counties but also getting your contacts verified by a card checker.

However, this is not the end of the USA-CA Award! The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (**MARAC**), also known as "The County Hunters," has taken over sponsorship of the program. MARAC has made a few up-



Beautiful 2024 MARAC redesign of the classic CQ USA-CA Counties Award

dates, including a refreshed certificate design and the removal of the confirmation requirement, making the process more accessible to all.

If you're still working on the USA-CA award but aren't close enough to apply to **NX0X** for the "Whole Ball of Wax," or if you're interested in the new MARAC-sponsored version, there are plenty of opportunities to continue chasing counties. For more information about MARAC or other mobile-related awards they offer, you can visit their website at [MARAC.org](https://marac.org).

Click [HERE](#) to read the official announcement from MARAC.

Feel free to reach out to me at W0FLZ62@gmail.com if you have any questions. As the Pacific Area Director of MARAC, I'm here to help. Thanks for reading and 73 to all—hope to catch you on the air!

-Paige, **W0FLZ**



Soon-to-be retired original CQ Counties Award. Only 20 certificates remain to be earned (as of this writing November 2024)

ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

FALL SEASON SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS

11/22/2024

On Tuesday, November 19, ballots were counted at ARRL Headquarters for the ARRL South Carolina Section Manager election that was conducted this fall.

ARRL members in South Carolina have elected incumbent Matthew Crook, **W1MRC**, to continue as their Section Manager with a new term of office starting on January 1, 2025. Crook received 296 votes, and his opponent, Billy Irwin, **K9OH**, of Anderson, received 223 votes.

Crook, of Lexington, has been Section Manager since July 1, 2024, when he was appointed to fulfill the term of office when then-Section Manager Jon Gendron, **NJ4Z**, moved out of the section to accept a new job.

Southern New Jersey will welcome a new Section Manager starting in the New Year. Ron Fish, **KX1W**, of Galloway, ran unopposed after Tom Preiser, **N2XW**, decided not to run for a new term of office. Preiser has been the Southern New Jersey Section Manager since January 2019.

The following incumbent Section Managers were unopposed, and they will begin new two-year terms of office on January 1, 2025: Jon McCombie, **N1ILZ** (Eastern Massachusetts); Cecil Higgins, **ACØHA**, (Missouri); Matthew Anderson, **KAØBOJ** (Nebraska); Jim Mezey, **W2KfV** (New York City-Long Island); Rocco Conte, **WU2M** (Northern New York), Joe Shupienis, **W3BC** (Western Pennsylvania), and Michael Douglas, **W4MDD** (West Central Florida). ©ARRL, Inc.

25th ANNUAL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY DECEMBER 7, 2024

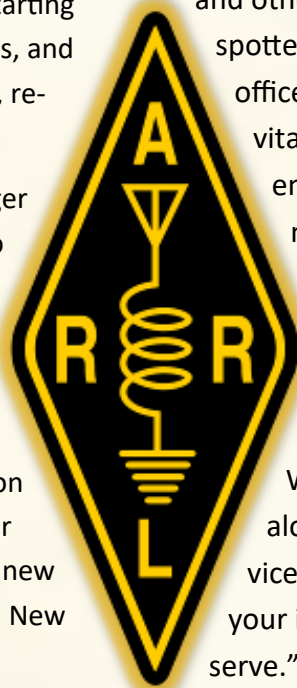
11/22/2024

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL® to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN™ spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.

In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, **WX4KEG**, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN™ volunteers provide is critical. "I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve."

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 – 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN™ Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, W1HQ, using the call



ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

sign WX1AW. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN volunteers to explore amateur radio. "Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom's 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office. I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since," she said.

ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at <https://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed>.

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>. There will be participation certificates available after the event.



Photos from SKYWARN™ from Weather.gov
Click any photo to visit SKYWARN™ site



To the Editor,

I just wanted to drop you a note expressing my appreciation (and awe) at the effort you put into the monthly club magazine. You must spend the entire month working on it!

I've never been down to the Tacoma clubhouse but I'm trying to organize a pilgrimage, with a couple of my local ham friends, to pay a visit some Saturday.

And, I think I'll send in a membership application — I've belonged to the Lake Washington Ham Club and the PSRG for many years, but your operation blows any Seattle area activity out of the water!

Again, thanks for your efforts!

Cheers & 73, Vic - **KB7GL**

Thanks for the kind words Vic—and we'd love to have you pay us a visit! Most any Saturday we have our open house. You can find a membership link on the W7DK.org website. We hope to see you one day soon! ■ -editor

Dear Editor,

I've been enjoying *The Bark* and wanted to share my HF experiences.

When I lived in Ocean Shores, WA, I joined the [HHH Net](#), a Worked All States net. Working a new state each night became a rewarding ritual, and achieving WAS brought great satisfaction. Now in a senior living building with no permanent antenna, I've adapted by using a wheeled cart. I roll it to the roof garden, unroll 100 ft. of speaker wire, and let my MFJ-993B tuner pair with my Kenwood TS-430.

Field Day 2024 was an adventure. Using a broom, I hoisted a wire onto a pergola and nearby tree branches. The roof garden's enclosed vestibule provided shelter, AC power, and a late-night operating spot for the [HHH Net](#). While I'm usually alone, residents occasionally stop by. One even asked if I'd contacted the Martians yet!

I'm looking forward to returning to the [HHH Net](#). Portable operation isn't always easy, but it's fun and fulfilling. Whether chasing WAS or checking into the PSRG noontime net, radio proves you can adapt and still enjoy HF. It just goes to show—

you don't need a permanent setup to make meaningful connections and have a great time.



Sincerely,

-George White **KD7YVV**, Bothell

Thanks for the story, George! Glad to hear you've sorted out a really practical solution to a "limited space antenna" plus a temporary on-demand shack setup! That's great. I will look for you in upcoming radio events and hopefully get you in the log! 73 & Happy Holidays to you and yours. ■ -editor



W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic “first award” for Members



HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required—no logs to submit—and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or



SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater... every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, **W7RGD** using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, **W7UYL** (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper.... So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put “Logger's Certificate” in the subject line...

Send to loggersbark@gmail.com



Barbara Osborne **W7UYL** ca. 1955 at an RCT USO event

We also issue “Log Piles” for endorsements of each group of ten additional stations worked! So don't hesitate—get your Logger's Certificate or Log pile Endorsement *today!*



Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By W7UUU

Nathan, KK7QND,
#3120

"I've been attending Camp Quest Northwest (CQNW) every summer for about 8 years. It's a week-long camp for young people, always with fun activities, where you sleep in cabins (the "camp" part). Over that time, I've gotten to know a number of the counselors, including Sam, [N9MII](#) and Becky, [KG7FGH](#). One day, they asked if I remembered Sam's radio tents at camp. They shared some exciting news: Sam was planning a class for high school campers to learn about amateur radio, with a chance to earn a ham radio license as part of the course. This idea had been in the works for years and was finally approved in January.

So I signed up, and in mid-January, we attended a weekend event at the W7DK clubhouse. For three days and two nights, we learned from Sam, Steve Dightman, [AF7YD](#), and other licensed members. We "camped" over the weekend in the clubhouse. My first hands-on experience with amateur radio was with Phil, [K7PIA](#), who introduced us to FT8. I found it fascinating and stayed with him for a while, diving deeper into it. I found FT8 to be really interesting in how it works. There are so many interesting things to learn in ham radio!

Throughout the weekend, we watched Sam's training videos, took practice tests (a *lot* of them), visited a pool, and even took over a Tacoma radio station. By the end, seven counselors and two campers, including me, earned their licenses. I failed my first test but passed on the second try. Thanks to Sam and Becky, I discovered the wonders of ham radio. I'm now learning Morse code and plan to take my General license test soon, aiming to upgrade by January 2025. It's been nearly a year since I got licensed, and there's still so much to learn and explore!"

NEW! ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer



Dear Elmer,

I just put up my first HF dipole. I cut it for the 10 meter band to try to get on SSB voice for the first time. I only have a tech license but I plan to try to upgrade. Someone told me that 10 meters is a good band right now for working DX and stuff and I really want to try that.

My radio is really basic but it's what I could afford. It's an Icom IC-718 and I know they are discontinued but I was able to get it for a good price.

I found the formula for making a dipole with the 468 divided by the frequency (I used 28.400) and came up with sixteen and a half feet for each side. Is that right? I did the math a couple times. I'm using 14 gauge wire from Home Depot like for electrical stuff.

But my SWR's are still high. Like 3 to 1 or so. What should I do?

-High SWR Guy

Dear High SWR Guy,

Congrats on getting your first HF rig on the air! It's really a good time to get on the air on 10 right now because we're at the sunspot peak and the band is open a lot of the time these days. The IC-718 is a GREAT first rig!

[Edit: The Mystery Elmer didn't notice you are using 468/f to get your length. But that's for the ENTIRE length of the antenna—not just one half. You need to use half that number, or 234/f in MHz for just one half. -editor]

You should know that that formula just means to get you in the right general range. But it's never an exact thing because lots of stuff can affect it—proximity to your house, your trees, any big metal objects nearby, height above ground, etc.

It's always best if you cut your new dipole to be a bit lower in frequency. Say, 28.300 using the formula instead of 28.400, because that will make your wire be longer and give you more room to trim that length.

You can double back the wire on the insulator (on both sides, not just one!) to shorten both sides a little bit at a time. Every time you make it a little shorter, test your SWR (not SWR's ... that's not really a proper term) reading on your meter. Go slow. An inch at a time or maybe a bit more, always doing both sides equally.

You said you're using THHN (that's the fancy name for the wire I think you're using). That's heavily insulated electrical wire which is just fine! But the insulation changes things a bit. Insulated wire acts as if it's longer than bare wire because the insulation increases the overall diameter a little bit. The difference is small but you might have to trim a bit more than if it were uninsulated antenna wire.

Just experiment! That's what ham radio antenna building is all about. Experimentation.

You will know when you have it trimmed just right. Your SWR at your chosen frequency (28.400, which is a good choice for a new Technician on 10m SSB!) will be very low. 1.1:1 is right spankin' good if you can get there.

Oh, and remember that if you over-trim your wire, that's a pain in the butt. You can still splice new wire on and try again. But it's always best if you do all the trimming in little steps (making sure to do both sides equally! Measure it—don't guess!). That will get you there quicker in the end even though it might seem slower.

Good luck and you should have great action on 10 meters soon. But don't forget to study for your General and really learn about HF and how it works.

73 from **Mystery Elmer #1**



THE LEGENDARY WOUFF HONG AND RETTYSNITCH

W7UUU

IN LAST MONTH'S *BARK* I STARTED A NEW CHALLENGE: THE HIDDEN OBJECT!

Somewhere in that issue was a picture of an object pretty much “hidden in plain view”. The first such object was the legendary “Wouff Hong” from Hiram Percy Maxim’s time as co-founder of the ARRL in the early 1910s. After the November *Bark* issue published, I received a couple emails saying in effect, “what the heck is a Wouff Hong in the first place?”. (Surprisingly, as of this writing, only one person reached out to say he found the picture—but he’s a contributor so he doesn’t qualify. The Wouff Hong was right on the front cover, sitting in plain sight on a sideboard, right rear!).

So this month I thought it appropriate to run a piece on the history of this odd item that’s a long-time part of our tradition in Amateur Radio.

If there’s one thing ham radio has in spades, it’s tradition – and not all of it is serious. Enter the Wouff Hong and the Rettysnitch, two fictional devices that have gained a cult following in the amateur radio community. For over a century, these mysterious (and rather evil-looking!) tools have played a role in

the folklore of the ARRL and amateur radio in general, serving as a humorous reminder to keep things civil on the airwaves.

So what are they exactly? The Wouff Hong and the Rettysnitch might sound like relics from a medieval dungeon, but they’re entirely made-up instruments of “punishment” for bad operators. The story goes that if you’re caught causing interference, hogging

frequencies, or generally making life miserable for your fellow hams, the Wouff Hong might be coming your way—and it likely won’t be pleasant!

These devices are credited to Hiram

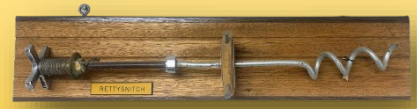
Maxim, the original “Old Man” of ham radio, who operated under the call sign **1AW** (later of course becoming W1AW, the ARRL club station call). Maxim, with his wry sense of humor, introduced the Wouff Hong to the ham world over the course of a number of issues of QST starting in April 1917, continuing well into 1919. Soon after, he followed up with the Rettysnitch. Neither device was ever described in any real detail (or given a specific form), leaving it to the imagination of hams everywhere. In fact, *most* hams first think of a Wouff Hong as a device for brutal punishment.



An early version of a Wouff Hong that hangs at the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Photo ©ARRL, Inc.



THE LEGENDARY WOUFF HONG AND RETTYSNITCH



W7UUU

What most *don't* know: the earliest references to the Wouff Hong suggest it was a mythical device that would eliminate static by attaching it to your receiver.

"A wouff hong is an instrument to be attached to a receiving set for the purpose of eliminating static in the phones and to eat up those broad-wave dogs that the Old Man had so much trouble with in his last rotten article... Three great problems have been solved: How to get rid of QRN, how to reduce QRM, and what a wouff hong is. It is a dream no more. Hurrah for the wouff hong!"

Excerpt QST Aug. 1917 p.9 ©ARRL, Inc.

However, the Wouff Hong soon became a symbolic weapon of the radio community against poor operating practices and on-air rudeness.

By June of 1919 (QST issue), Maxim had evolved his notion of a Wouff Hong into that of a weapon, rather than a magic noise-eliminating device. Frustrated by operators who didn't seem to care about proper radio etiquette, he sketched out the reborn Wouff Hong, as a joke, for dealing with such transgressions. Maxim introduced it as a serious "instrument of enforcement," aimed at maintaining order on the airwaves. The Wouff Hong struck a nerve, and it wasn't long before it became a kind of badge of honor within the ARRL – something no serious amateur wanted to be on the wrong end of!

The ARRL ran with the idea. It was first shown as an actual object in the June 1919 issue of QST, and the Wouff Hong soon appeared on display at conventions, award ceremonies, and even licensing

exams. To this day, an original Wouff Hong is on display at ARRL headquarters in Newington.

Over ensuing years a ham radio club tradition of solemn "induction ceremonies" involving the Wouff Hong evolved where seasoned hams would impress upon new operators or new club members the importance of following the rules and being considerate on the air. In 2017 when I became President of the RCT W7DK, the club's Wouff Hong was raised above my head as a reminder to follow the bylaws at all times!

So what about the Rettysnitch? As if one mythical device wasn't enough, Maxim upped the ante with the Rettysnitch.



*Early example of a Rettysnitch
Photo ©ARRL, Inc.*

Soon after the Wouff Hong, this device took things up a notch. While the Wouff Hong was for handling poor on-

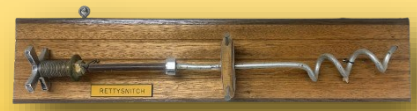
air behavior, the Rettysnitch became known as the weapon against the *truly egregious* offenders – those who went out of their way to disrupt the airwaves with willful intent. And similar to the Wouff Hong, it also appeared in early 1917 and slowly evolved in meaning until it too started resembling an *actual* piece of devilish-looking hardware.

"Most members of the A.R.R.L. know what a Wouff Hong is, [and] a large number suspect what a Rettysnitch may be..."

Some say the Rettysnitch is the ultimate "last



THE LEGENDARY WOUFF HONG AND RETTYSNITCH



W7UUU

resort” for unrepentant offenders, while others believe it’s meant to keep hams on their toes, aware that they could always be “snitched on” by fellow operators if they crossed the line. Like the Wouff Hong, the Rettysnitch was never fully described, so hams over the years have filled in the gaps with their own interpretations. I wasn’t able to find the exact moment that Maxim (or his cohorts) created the first physical Rettysnitch, but by July 1925 they had become common in radio clubs as well. The July ‘25 QST even ran an ad to purchase one!

GENUINE Rettysnitches: Fellow hams, they guarantee quiet and money back if not satisfied. Sent postpaid on receipt six bits. Nielsen 6 RBH.

Amazingly, even after a century, these devices would have faded into obscurity – but they’re as popular as ever. Today, many radio clubs hold humorous “Wouff Hong ceremonies” still use them for various ceremonial purposes, such as the RCT when inaugurating new presidents.

For many, the Wouff Hong and Rettysnitch serve as a friendly reminder that ham radio isn’t just about having a strong signal; it’s about being a part of a global community with shared standards and respect. They serve as a reminder to operators that there’s a line between acceptable operating practices and offenses that the radio gods (and once upon a time the FCC but no so much anymore) might frown upon.

In the banner for this article, you will notice a cleverly

made Wouff Hong—crafted from a forked tree branch, and a Rettysnitch designed as if to be a giant cork screw, both of which hang in the W7DK clubhouse. Next time you visit, you can find these cool old artefacts 7 feet up on the North wall of the classroom.

Unfortunately, there is currently no known history for the club’s artifacts—when they were made or by whom. Maybe one day when the vast library of old printed and bound *Logger’s Barks* gets digitized and becomes searchable, this mystery might possibly be put to rest.

For now, just like in the days of old, these implements stand as a reminder to us all—don’t be “that guy” that doesn’t want to follow the rules to which we all must abide, or otherwise ruins the fun for everyone else on the bands (and in the clubhouse for that matter!)

-Dave W7UUU

That Wouff Hong Again

By an Active Member of the A. R. R. L.

In a recent number of QST, our editor stated that he was being pestered half to death for wouff hong. Oh, yes, there really is such a thing as a wouff hong, but I regret to say that it has not yet been placed on the market, so don't pester our already overworked editor for it. It is too recent an invention to be for sale yet.

A wouff hong is an instrument to be attached to a receiving set for the purpose of eliminating static in the phones and to eat up those broad wave dogs that the Old Man had so much trouble with in his last rotten article. If the Old Man had had a wouff hong, that “gink” would not have drowned out 8NH and the poor cat would not need to have been spat upon the second time.

A very good friend of mine has thoroughly tested out one of these wouff hong and reports that the animal actually eats up all of the QRN and a large portion of the QRM also. It seems to have a special liking for broad waves and eats them up clean, therefore I would recommend it to the Old Man. One night when QRM was too much for most of us amateurs, this friend of mine worked right through it all and next day calmly announced, “No QRN in my phones last night while using that wouff hong”. Three great problems have been solved. How to get rid of QRM, how to reduce QRM, and what a wouff hong is. It is a dream no more. Hurrah for the wouff hong!

From QST, August 1917 (©ARRL, Inc.): Hiram Percy Maxim’s original notion for a Wouff Hong was actually as some sort of amazing technology that could be attached to a receiver to reduce noise and interference. It wasn’t until 1919 that it morphed into being an instrument of torture.

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

From Member Jim W7VK

A Sentimental Ham Radio Quilting Project



W7UUU



W7VK

From recent new member, Jim O'Hara W7VK: "In 1990 I joined my first radio club, the Amateur Radio Assn. of Bremerton (ARAB) W7VE. There I met Harold (W7MWC) and his brother Ralph (N7ORF). Harold and Dolores treated me as one of their five children. I lost track of the W7MWC family when Harold passed away 15 years ago. Their daughter Teri made a quilt for one of her daughters who was missing her grandpa. There were four panels on the quilt: W7MWC, N7ORF, W7VE, and me W7VK. Teri surprised me with an 80th birthday card with a photo of the quilt she made 6 years ago. Wow, sometimes people remember us even though we have forgotten and lost touch. There is a lesson here I think".

-Jim W7VK



W7ORF



W7VE



W7MWC



10 GREAT HAM RADIO GIFTS FOR 2024

\$139 OR LESS

By: W7UUU



FOR THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY BUYER'S GIFT GUIDE, I

wanted to feature only products that I have purchased and own myself. That way I can speak with assurance about each, rather than just pull random items from Amazon or DXE. The most expensive item in this list is \$139,

and the least expensive is less than \$16 but packs a ton of usefulness for most any ham on your "holiday shopping list". All but one of the items can be purchased from Amazon so they can easily be delivered before Christmas, Hannukah, Festivus, or Kwanzaa this year! ■ -editor

Any ham who works with coaxial cable

of any type (which certainly is most of us) sooner or later will want to install a PL-259 connector on a piece of coax. This kit is sold by HRO and at only \$89.95 includes all the dies you will need to crimp a connector on most any cable that comes along. I've used this very kit to terminate many cables HF to UHF. Of course, you will *always* want to solder the center conductor! Click image to view at HRO.



Hakko soldering stations are considered one of the best values in such products these days. Granted, there are a bazillion inexpensive no-name Chinese soldering stations on Amazon and eBay for a lot less. But for my

own workbench, I prefer to have either Hakko or Weller stations. And the Hakko

FX888DX really fits well with the

projects I work on my bench. At \$139 it's the spendiest item on this list but for me, I consider it well worth it. Click the image to view on Amazon.



Solder fumes are bad! Especially if you're still using the old 60-40 lead-based solder (I'm guilty—I still have a stash of the old stuff!). I tried a number of solder fume extractors but found the KOTTO unit to work the best. Just position it on your bench

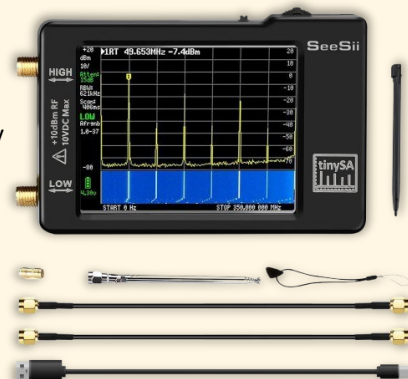


near where you are soldering, and the high-suction fan pulls in the smoke, and the carbon filter helps capture it. Is it perfect? Probably not. But better than using nothing and for around \$35 worth it. Click image to view.

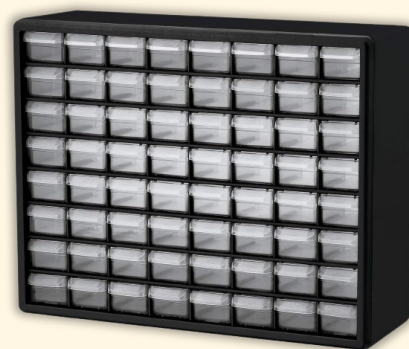
The tinySA spectrum analyzer

is one of the highest accuracy yet least expensive test gizmos any ham can have in his shack. It's beyond this short paragraph to describe fully but just know it's a super useful tool for ham operators and anyone wanting to

learn more about RF. Just click the link for this one and read it's capabilities. I've only barely scratched the surface on the one I have in my shop. It's quite the learning tool for \$60!



EVERY ham I have ever known needs parts cabinets. Not just one—several... or a bunch of them! And I indeed have a bunch of them... all from Akro-Mils (made in USA!). I found the most versatile to be the 64-drawer version but they have many. All priced \$35-\$50 they are a good deal for American Made quality. Click image...



NO affiliation! Links are all generic and are NOT monetized to anyone.

10 GREAT HAM RADIO GIFTS FOR 2024 \$139 OR LESS

By: W7UUU



One of the most useful items I

have in my own shop is this small variable power supply. Sure I have a big old "Variac" for working with boat anchor rigs. But for small solid state projects, kit builds, and servicing solid-state rigs, where the voltage needed is from up to

30 volts DC at 0-10 amps, this

little bench supply at around \$60 can't be beat. There's nothing magical about this particular model—there are many to choose from. But I picked this one for its simplicity, 10 amp capacity, and overall price. There are certainly fancier versions—some even programmable. But for day-to-day bench work on small projects, for most of us that's probably overkill. Just click on the picture to see this one on Amazon.

Another really handy device in my shop: an LCR meter. This is a specialized type of multimeter that measures inductance (L), capacitance (C) and resistance (R) in one handheld unit.



This is another product that is sold under many brand names and form factors. But I can personally vouch for the Proster LCR Meter, as it has been a regular companion on my workbench. I like to build a number of small electronic kits, and if you're like me, most of today's through-

hole components are so tiny it's often almost impossible to read the value without digging out the microscope! It's very reassuring to pop a mystery component into the clip leads and confirm not only the value of the part under test, but the type. Sure there are fancier automated versions but for \$33 you can't go wrong with this one. Click on the picture to see on Amazon.

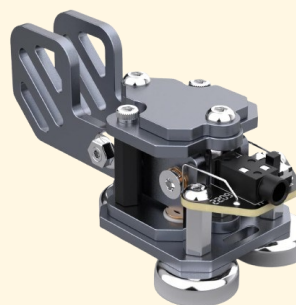


More and more I find this magnifier headset an absolute necessity in

the shop. It's about the best \$16 single purchase I can think of. It's an elegant head-worn magnifier headset with LED light and an assortment of stereo lenses of varying powers. The fit is comfortable, and it's easy to

adjust for the best vision line-of-sight. It's indispensable for working with SMD parts, small through-hole parts, and for tiny screws such as those used to hold eyeglass lenses in place. At the \$16 price point, this should be in every hams shop. Click the picture to see it on Amazon.

I love this little iambic paddle key! This is the key I take on all of



my POTA activations. It's made by Putikeeg and comes in a number of different finishes and formats, all around \$60 or so. In my opinion, it's a fine key indeed! It does NOT include a steel base—you'll need to provide that for the magnets to work. I bought [THIS ONE](#) for \$12 to solve the problem. Click on the key

picture to see it listed on Amazon.

A PC board holding jig is essential for any bench setup where you work with small circuit boards. The clamping mechanism holds PCBs up to 5 inches wide which is fine for most small kits. The base is heavy and you can rotate the PCB 360 degrees to work on both sides easily. Nice item on any bench. Click the picture to see on Amazon.



NO affiliation! Links are all generic and are NOT monetized to anyone.



ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH, A VISITOR going only by the name of Jeff stopped by the clubhouse. He had in his possession a number of really cool ham radio pieces and other electronic gear he had picked up at a local thrift shop. He was looking for help in identifying the items, and determining operational condition. He was quickly taken upstairs to the Museum to meet Randy, **WB4SPB**, one of the more technically astute hams in the clubhouse on any given Saturday.

Randy made short order of checking out the ham transceiver and other items Jeff brought. But one item was very peculiar and of course was a perfect choice to become the topic of another “Mystery Box” column in *The Bark*. I happened to be on hand during the short time Jeff visited, and was able to snap a few pictures.

By way of description, the box is about a foot tall, eight inches across and about four inches deep. Clearly handmade, the box was fitted inside with a Utah brand 6”x 9” car radio speaker—the type typically found in the rear deck of a 1970s automobile. The Utah Speaker Company was based in Huntington, Indiana, and made speakers mostly for car radios beginning in the 1940s on into the 1970s, around which time the company folded due to cheap Asian import speakers taking over the market. So it’s pretty safe to say the Mystery Box was made in the early-to-mid 1970s.

Inside the box is another mystery unto itself: a small potted circuit assembly, strapped to the inside of the box

with a fairly crude bent aluminum bracket. There are four terminals on the mystery circuit—but logically, in looking at the wiring, two wires are the power input from the battery pack, with the positive pole switched by a momentary pushbutton on the top of the box. The other pair of wires coming from the potted circuit goes to the speaker. So again, it’s pretty safe to say that the circuit inside the black potted plastic blob is a power oscillator, most likely designed to produce a fairly loud tone when the button was pressed.

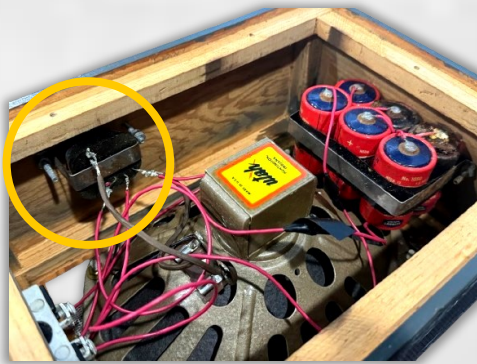
For power, there is a badly corroded 6-pack of Eveready (Union Carbide) brand, No. 1050 D-cell

batteries, with one really odd construction feature: they are all *soldered in place* in a series circuit which would result in 9 volts to the mystery potted circuit. But why would they have been soldered in place like this? That to me seems very odd, because replacement would be a real chore. The pack would have to be unstrapped from its metal housing bracket, then each cell would need to be desoldered. Fresh D-cells would then need to be appropriately soldered into place with all the jumpers to restore the 9 volt supply for the oscillator.

So that suggests strongly that this box was only intended for short-term use “now and again” but not frequently, and not for a long period of time each use. Operated in this way, the batteries would provide something close to “shelf life” and the time between changes would be sufficient to offset the hassle of changing them. But still—why not just use a 6-D-cell battery holder from Radio



Randy **WB4SPB** holding up the Mystery Box, with rear panel removed for viewing



Interior view of the Mystery Box. The yellow circle highlights the potted circuit—most likely a power audio oscillator

Shack, Lafayette, or Allied Radio?

Lastly, the top of the box has the simplest of controls: an on-off toggle switch, and a momentary pushbutton to activate the power oscillator. A

there is no external key jack I think pretty much rules that out.

Maybe it was for a signaling purpose—a school playground monitor carrying the box at recess to have a “one press of the button and the kids need to listen up” sort of response.

Or, given it was likely a power oscillator and capable of being pretty loud, could it have been used in a factory or business to alert a shift change, being carried by hand area to area?

Regardless the function, the fact it had hard-wired batteries strongly suggests it was not used very often and the 6 D-cells would have essentially their shelf life without needing to be changed.

I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on just what this interesting little homebrew box was intended for. Just use the email address below and send them to “Dear Editor”. The most interesting and most creative ideas

will be considered for publication in an upcoming edition of The Logger’s Bark.

—Dave W7UUU; Thanks to Randy WB4SPB & Mystery Visitor Jeff who made this article possible.



Top view showing carrying handle, on-off toggle switch, and momentary pushbutton



Overall view of the Mystery Box showing the front side

carrying handle (originally a drawer pull, mounted with three 1/8” flat washers for spacing) makes it obvious this was a portable device.

Without the opportunity to “unpot” the mystery potted circuit, there’s no way to know for certain what was inside.

But given the circumstantial clues of pushbutton and loudspeaker, with no other inputs, it surely is a power oscillator capable of driving the speaker to a sufficient volume to be heard easily whenever the button was pushed. However, the current draw for each blast of the oscillator would be pretty high. This suggests it wasn’t meant to be pushed often, or for long bursts when it was pushed, to reduce the drain on the soldered-in batteries.

So—the question: what do you suppose it was for? One early suggestion was a code practice oscillator, perhaps for a group of students. Maybe. But the pushbutton as a code key would be very awkward at best, and the fact



IN 1966 MARGIE
CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK)
put together a
wonderful

50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK
club news clippings,
notable events, photos,
etc. This monthly
column will run for just
a few issues, and
feature selected items
from the scrapbook
just for a glimpse into
the club's past. Even
those readers who are
not a member will still
find enjoyment in
reading about historical
ham radio tidbits from
more than half a
century ago.

—editor



ARRL Northwestern Division Convention—August 1939.

Click photo for a larger version that can be zoomed.

A FUN FACT THAT MANY club members are likely not aware of is that in the first quarter of the last century, The Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK played host to four of the early ARRL Northwestern Division Conventions: 1926, 1929, 1931, and 1936. The photo above from Margie's scrapbook is dated August 29-30 1931. The location is unknown but very possibly was Point Defiance Park—a long-time popular park on the Puget Sound where large gatherings for group functions frequently occurred. There are a number of call signs hand-written on the photo but the only one that's legible, **W7AHQ**, R. C. Naser of Anacortes, Washington who was not a club member. Another in the crowd is holding a card with his call sign neatly printed, as **W7OY**, Louis Geisler, who much later became a member of the club. A couple other gents are holding similar cards but are not legible even when zoomed. If you right-click on the photo and open in a new tab or window, you can zoom it for much greater detail. Note that with only a few exceptions, nearly everyone is wearing a tie! -Dave **W7UUU**

At the end of this
crumbling road
in Toledo Ohio
once stood a
6-story factory.
It was here in 1931
that the first product to
reduce noise in a receiver was born.

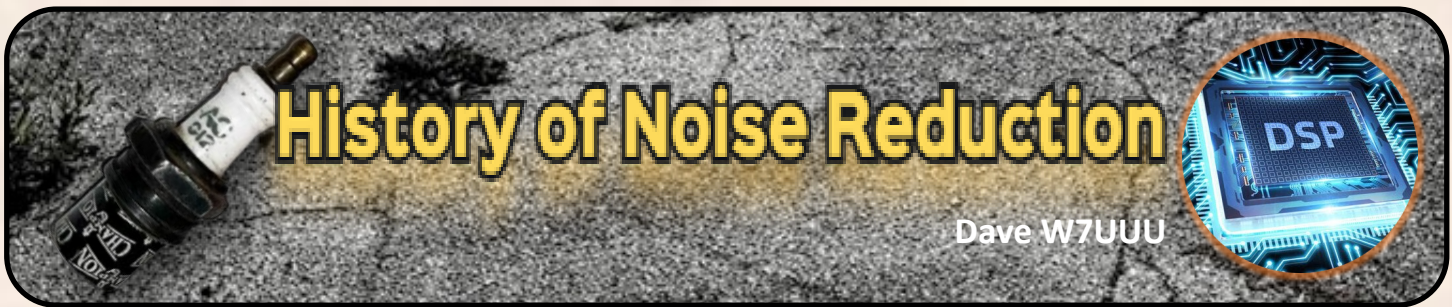
by Dave W7UUU



Background Photo by Dave W7UUU

Inset: 1931 Champion Resistor Spark Plug

Web photos used under Fair Use clause



Dave W7UUU

AT THE END OF WHAT IS TODAY A CRUMBLING CONCRETE access road called Upton Drive, just West of downtown Toledo, Ohio, once stood a massive factory. It was in this building in 1931 that radio noise reduction was born.

The problem of intense electrical noise for folks using AM radios actually dates back to both the early days of radio, and the early days of the motorcar. The explosion of the automobile industry in the 1920s mobilized the population in a way never seen nor imagined before. Roads were built in beautiful locations simply to give new motorcar owners places to

drive on weekends. Intercity and interstate travel for business and pleasure became commonplace, and along with this mobility grew an ever-increasing desire to have more than just *functionality* in an automobile; folks started craving *comforts* as well.

So it wasn't long before the "internet of the 1920s", also known as AM Broadcast radio, was being viewed as something that might have practical and entertaining use while driving. Entrepreneur brothers Paul and Joseph Galvin had started a firm, Galvin Manufacturing Corporation, in 1928 to sell battery eliminators for the early AM radios so they

could be powered from AC mains outlets in homes. This saved homeowners the high cost of frequent battery replacements for their radios. While they sold fairly well, sales of the eliminators wasn't sufficient to provide a full time gig for the Galvins.

Brainstorming to the next step of their venture, the brothers thought, "hey—why not use one of these battery eliminator setups in a car and not only

that, we could also manufacture and sell a suitable radio to go with it?". And in 1930 they did just that and launched their first truly successful consumer product: the Galvin car radio. It was the world's first mass-produced radio designed specifically for cars. They dubbed it the "Motorola" to reflect its purpose: "motor" for car, and "ola" to evoke the popular suffix used in many products of the day, specifically "Victrola". This was the first mass-market record player from the Victor Talking



Google Earth view of 900 Upton Avenue, Toledo, Ohio as it is today. Red area is the site of the 1910-1939 Champion factory (inset). The camera symbol is where the article splash photo was taken, with the tree highlighted. The area will soon be redeveloped.



History of Noise Reduction

Dave W7UUU

Machine Company, which by 1929 was owned by RCA, the Radio Corporation of America.

The Galvin Motorola car radio wasn't cheap—with all options, when first sold, it could run as high as \$110 in 1930 or just over \$2000 today. Despite the high price, they sold extremely well, and Galvin Manufacturing began marketing a wide range of mobile communications gear to cater to a burgeoning market. By 1947 they rebranded the entire company Motorola, and of course as we as hams all know, they are today one of the largest suppliers of mobile radio gear on Earth.



Photo: ©Reeman Dansie Auctioneers
Used here under the Fair Use Clause

Early 1930s Galvin "Motorola" car radio. It mounted in the floorboards, with the speaker facing up into the car. The tuning dial and volume control were remoted up onto the dashboard of the car.

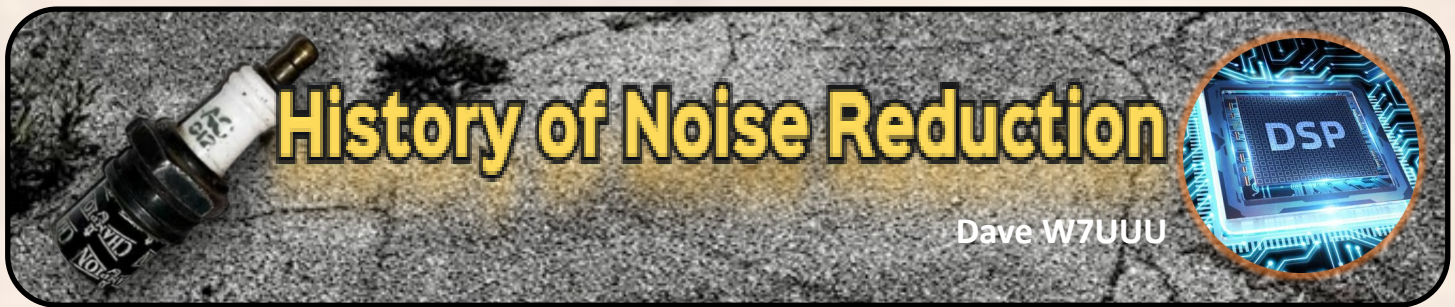
But there was one problem: vehicle ignition noise. All the cars being fitted with a new Galvin Motorola car radio were subject to the intense, repetitive, and very loud impulse noise generated by the spark plugs and ignition wires from the spark coils, when picked up by the radio and amplified. Every one of those sparks jumping the spark plug gap inside an engine cylinder produced a tiny lightning bolt that

radiated a dense RF wave at frequencies the Motorola radio would easily pick up and turn into jarring sound.

This meant that only the strongest stations could be tuned in. More distant or weaker stations were simply drowned out in the barrage of raspy ignition noise. To help combat this problem, the earliest installations of a Motorola car radio required the car's headliner to be ripped out and the chicken wire frame that held the fabric in place was then isolated from ground, and wired for use as an antenna with a lead fed down to the radio, which mounted under the floorboards. Then all of the body panels had to be bonded and tied to the radio's negative terminal as a ground in an effort to shield the Motorola from the noise. But in the end, it didn't work very well. While it was reduced, noise still prevailed.

Enter Champion Spark Plugs: Albert Champion was born in France in 1878. He immigrated to the United States in 1891, and eventually pursued a career in automotive engineering. After working for Bendix Corporation and the Cadillac Motor Company, he founded Champion Spark Plug Company in Flint, Michigan in 1907, and three years later, he built a large factory at 900 Upton Street in Toledo, Ohio. It once stood at the end of the now-closed road seen in the opening page of this article.

Albert Champion died suddenly in 1927, before the advent of the Galvin Motorola. Robert A. Stranahan, co-founder of the Champion Spark Plug Company, became president and quickly grew the firm into the giant in the automotive industry it would be-



Dave W7UUU

come. It's a spark plug name that still rings familiar to us today.

In 1930, under Stranahan's direction to solve the noise problem, he

tasked engineers with finding a solution. They found that if a series resistor was installed inside the spark plug with a value of between 5000 and 10,000 Ohms, that noise would be greatly attenuated, while not causing a significant enough voltage drop to impede engine performance due to a reduced spark intensity.

The Champion Resistor Spark Plug hit the market in 1931 and was an immediate success. It wasn't perfect however. Galvin Manufacturing (Motorola) engineer Victor Irvine years later recalled:

"The entire top of a car had to be ripped out. The chicken-wire netting which supported the car roof had to be cut out and completely insulated so as to provide an aerial. The leads were hand shielded down to the [radio] set and all parts of the car had to be bonded and grounded. Motor noise was a terrific thing and could not be entirely eliminated even with the use of spark plug suppressors"

But in time, more developments came including improved resistor spark plugs and wires, better ignition coils, improvements in the radios themselves, until finally the majority of spark plug noise was prevented from reaching the radio.



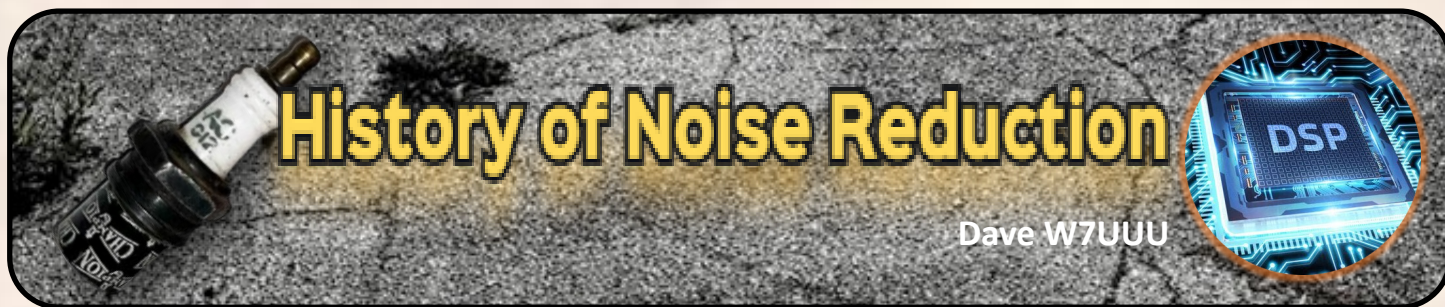
Manor photo by: Dave W7UUU

Robert Stranahan's Wildwood Manor house on 500 acres in Toledo, built in 1938 at the peak of his success as President of Champion Spark Plugs. Inset: Robert Stranahan (public domain)

But in the end, the very first radio noise reduction system was in fact a Champion Spark plug from Toledo, Ohio.

The next big thing was the Noise Blanker! Not much changed in radio noise and reduction of it in the years following the Champion resistor spark plug. Sure, spark plugs and their wires were improved, coils, distributors, and other ignition parts were also improved. But nothing had been done to help mitigate noise from those using radio receivers in their homes—specifically, amateur radio operators.

Finally, in the early 1950s, the amateur radio manufacturers decided to tackle the noise problem for hams and for radio professionals alike. Engineers began developing analog systems to detect an incoming pulse or spike of noise, and once it rose to a threshold pre-determined by the circuit, to nearly instantly attenuate the unwanted noise signal to an



Dave W7UUU

acceptable level.

The earliest receivers with an effective noise reduction system, also called a “Noise Limiter” or “Noise Blanker”, were the Hallicrafters SX-100 and the Collins 75A-4, both of which debuted in 1955. These were top-of-their-class receivers in their day (and actually still hold up very well in use even today!).

Obviously, radios such as these models were not intended to be in cars. But as the world became more electrified, electrical impulse noise grew from being a problem limited mostly to those *driving* cars to a problem for amateur radio operators *in their shacks* at home! Arcing power lines on utility poles, cars with insufficient noise suppression driving by, electric fences for those in rural areas, and even the myriad of electrical home convenience appliances that exploded onto the market beginning in the 1940s—all caused noise. All of these devices were potential sources, and the ham radio operators

were the ones most affected. Virtually all of this early noise was what is called “impulse noise”... strong electrical pulses generated by things like motors, ignition coils, and electric fence systems.

The Collins 75A-4 had one of the best noise blankers of its era by offering the user control over the blanking characteristics via a front panel control.

Other receiver features helped with noise reduction as well—dual and even triple-conversion schemes in the receiver IF (Intermediate Frequency) signal structure, IF variable passband filters, fixed mechanical or crystal filters to narrow the receiver passband and block out noise, and variable AF (Audio Frequency) filters to provide additional noise rejection.

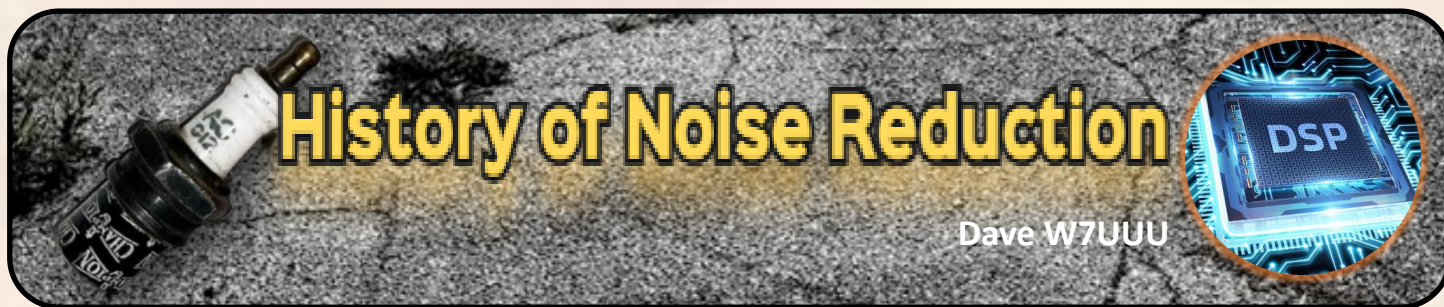
All of these analog systems worked together to help eliminate the scourge of noise, and soon many other amateur radio manufacturers followed suit and brought these concepts into their products.

This was really the state of the art throughout the 1960s, 70s, and well into the 1980s. While many improvements were made—such as faster blanker circuits based on transistors, specialized diodes, and later, integrated circuit chips which made detection of pulse noise ever speedier—the noise blanker core technology in general remained largely the same.

Along came digital (DSP) noise reduction—which was first developed for military radio applications. By the early 1990s digital processing of audio noise patterns began trickling down into amateur radio gear; first as stand-alone accessories like the Radio Shack DSP-40, one of the earliest external digital noise reduction devices for hams. More sophisti-



1955 Collins 75A-4 receiver. Inset close-up showing the variable noise limiter to help reduce impulse noise. The “Rejection Tuning” control also aids in this—by reducing adjacent signals from other stations but also from unwanted noise sources. This was state of the art noise reduction in 1955. Photos: Dave W7UUU



History of Noise Reduction

Dave W7UUU

cated units quickly followed such as the very popular JPS NIR-10 and others. They all used the same basic approach: incoming audio was filtered using digital algorithms that could detect and suppress known impulse noise types.



Radio Shack DSP-40 was one of the first digital noise reduction units on the market and it was very popular with hams. Photo: W7UUU

They did this by digitally sampling the overall audio signal, analyzing it to identify noise characteristics, then applying a software reduction template to digitally remove a known waveform type, while leaving the desired signal largely intact.

Over time, the proliferation of DSP noise reduction

were early adopters, offering transceivers equipped with sophisticated audio DSP noise reduction.

Ultimately, they all suffered from one flaw: they could only be used at the very last stage of the receiver—the audio stage. They did nothing to eliminate the noise at earlier stages, before it became audio. But several manufacturers were already working out what would become the next new thing, and developed digital noise reduction techniques to be inserted earlier in the signal chain. This concept is used to this day for noise reduction: DSP at the IF (Intermediate Frequency) stages as well as in the audio. The first successful example of this is the venerable Yaesu FT-1000MP which debuted in 1996 at around \$2,500—or about \$4,900 in today's dollars—very comparable to the higher end transceivers of today such as the FTDX-101MP, a current model also made by Yaesu.

All modern HF transceivers now offer a multitude of high-tech noise reduction circuits such as: special filters called “roofing filters” which single out a smaller slice of incoming RF—keeping unwanted signals out of the detection path altogether; DSP-based noise blankers now at the CPU-level of processing with vastly superior detection and filtering; IF-stage CPU-level noise reduction, and lastly audio noise reduction way beyond the early DSP devices. All work in concert to provide greater noise reduction than ever before. Virtually every ham transceiver offered today includes some sort of DSP noise reduction system—even entry-level models.

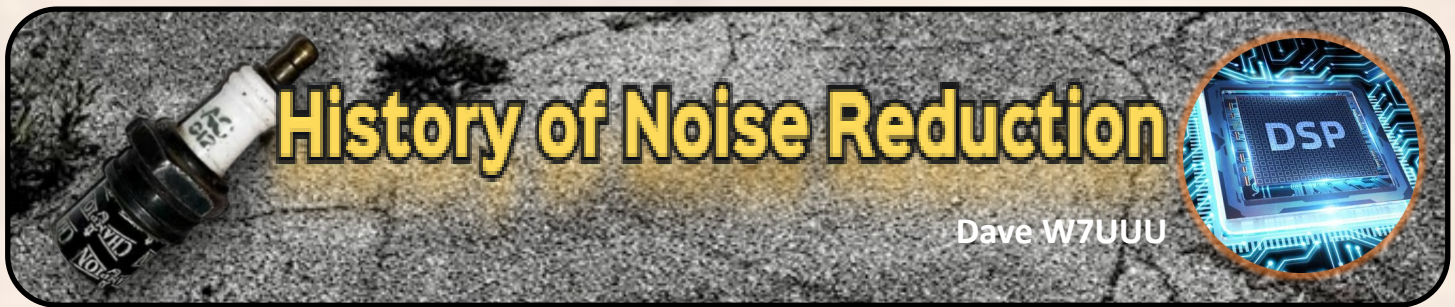
And of course full-blown SDR (software defined radio) transceivers such as the FlexRadio family, the



The JPS NIR-10 was another very popular and effective audio noise reduction unit also introduced in the 1990s. Photo: W7UUU

boxes improved as more sophisticated noise algorithms were developed and new models released.

They all worked quite well for most common types of noise—certainly far better than a simple noise blanker. Soon, such technology was being built into the new transceivers directly—Icom and Ten-Tec



History of Noise Reduction

Dave W7UUU

Icom IC-7610, and Yaesu FTDX-101D/MP, among others further advanced the technologies of taking noise out of a received signal.

In these state-of-the-art radios, everything in the signal chain is under control of the internal computers and enormous strides have been made in reducing noise in a highly sophisticated digital chain in rigs such as these.

So do hams still suffer from noise in their receivers?

Yep! We certainly do. It seems that no matter how sophisticated the radios get, there are always new types of, and greater intensities of, noise generating gizmos out there: grow lights, solar chargers, home electronics, an aging electrical grid with noisy distribution, and poorly designed power supplies of all types.

But just remember next time you're at your radio in the heat of a contest, and enjoying the fruits of today's amazing tech at work for you removing the raspy noise from your received signals... that it all started in 1931 with a landmark resistor spark plug first made in downtown Toledo, Ohio.

Epilogue: This story came about as something of a fluke. During a recent visit to Toledo, Ohio to visit my kids and grandkids, we chanced upon the [Wildwood Manor Preserve](#)—former home of Champion Spark Plugs co-founder Robert Stranahan—a billionaire industrialist and philanthropist. It's now a 430 acre public park. After doing some research on the Champion brand, I realized his company was indeed the innovator of the world's first "noise reduction system" for radios.

While on this trip, Anne **N7ANN** and I drove to the original site of the Champion factory on Upton Avenue, only to find the road closed and entirely fenced off. I took what photos I could through the chain-link fence, to try to capture the location.

Once back at our VRBO house on the shores of Lake Erie, I started researching the wonderful backstory of this factory, and the very early advent of what really is the "first noise reduction system" for radio ever developed—the Champion Resistor Spark Plug.

I hope you enjoyed reading the story as much as I did researching and writing it. -Dave **W7UUU**



STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

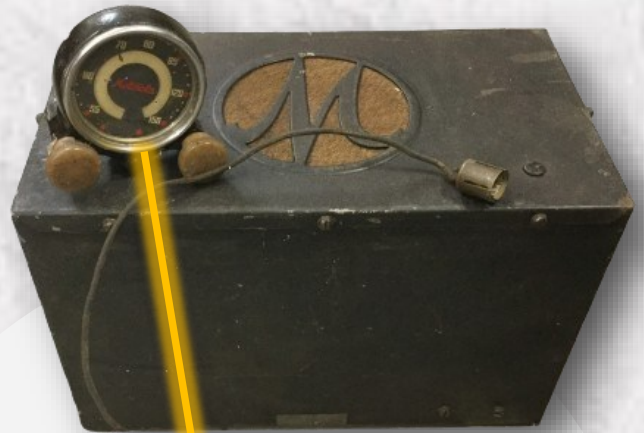
Original 1930s Motorola in the Movies!



W7UUU

NOT LONG AFTER COMPLETING THE PRECEDING article, and having never known much about the original Motorola car radio before my research, I happened to be watching the great old 1973 classic movie “Paper Moon”. I’ve seen it dozens of times over the years—and always was puzzled when Ryan O’Neal comments on the 1938 Ford pickup truck rust bucket he traded his convertible for, “well at least the radio looks good”. I never realized that the radio he’s talking about is in fact an original early-1930s Motorola car radio! He reaches in and points directly at the remote tuning head, which contained a cable-driven tuning drive, tuning control knob, and remote volume control. I was able to capture the fleeting moment with a well-timed screen grab from the DVD.

-Dave W7UUU



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



*Jo Ann (not yet a ham) and Troy **N7PIE** came by the clubhouse on a recent Saturday*



*Recently joined member Bill **KK7VUG** came by for a cup o'Jo and a visit with the gang*



*Paul **KG7FTN** hanging out in the club kitchen on a recent Saturday morning*



*Dick **W1UG** chatted it up with Scott **KA7IOX** over donuts and good company*

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Membership Chair Mike **W7XH** talks about club membership issues with Troy **N7PIE**



And here's Mike **W7XH** hard at work as always processing applications, renewals, and donations



Adam **W2NCC**, Paul **N7OSS**, and Jeff **W8NGS** plot storage strategies in the garage



The Gang's All Here! In the kitchen chatting it up on November 9th

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Randy **WB4SPB** holds up the "Mystery Box" - subject of an article on [page 27](#) of this issue of The Bark



Anne **N7ANN** catches up with Gary **WG7X** in the Clubhouse kitchen, November 30th



L>R: Mike **W7XH**, Gary **WG7X**, Adam **W2NCC**, Paul **N7OSS**, and Mike **W7XTZ** yuck it up in the Library



Several generations of hams in the HF Room L>R: Will **KK7WMS**, Dave **W7GEL**, Randy **WB4SPB**, David **AC7KP**, and Mike **W7MKE**

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



John **N7TES** demonstrates his Meshtastic node device and all the local activity on the app



Closeup of the Meshtastic node, John **N7TES** looks on



New ham and new member Stephen **KD5NSD** and his sidekick Leo (not yet licensed but I hear he's considering it soon!)



Jim **N7MU** mans his for-sale table at the Last Saturday Swap at the Clubhouse

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Joe **KF7PXB** quietly works CW contacts on his Elecraft KX2 on November 30, ever improving his CW skills



9-year-old Will **KK7WMS** under the close tutelage of Mike **W7MKE** (off camera) learns to work FT8 on the Flex



BOD-member-elect Dave **W7GEL**, Prez-elect Adam **W2NCC**, and Randy WB4SPB visit in the Library



Always with a sense of humor, Chef Paul **W7PFU** mugs for the camera while setting up to open the Last Saturday Chuck Wagon

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Happy Birthday

December Birthdays!!

Manny Adonis	AD7MA
Kevin Kemp	AI7WR
Quentin Caudron	K7DRQ
Leah Ives	K7IPT
JoAnne Decker	KB7BYC
Kenneth Scott	KB7UXT
Jerry Garman	KF7FEA
Helen Schub	KF7SOW
Norma Purdom	KG7ONO
Warren Munro	KH6WM
Michael Boisture	KJ7BDD
Bryan Anderson	KJ7LEA
Stephen Johnson	KK7BMF
Ileana Sharky	KK7IJZ
Kama Bigbee	KK7ODX
Brent Roberts	KK7QLR
Shawn Smith	KK7RHL
Rachel Perez	KK7SAQ
Lloyd Kimball	N0NHJ
Robert Giden	N7KCG
William Griffin	NL7BI
Michael Cummings	W7MPC
Mike Finnie	W7MWF
Tom Lesick	W7TJL
Robert Benton	W7VB
Robert Smith	WA7ILB
James Swanson	WA7JIM
Randy Meyers	WB4SPB

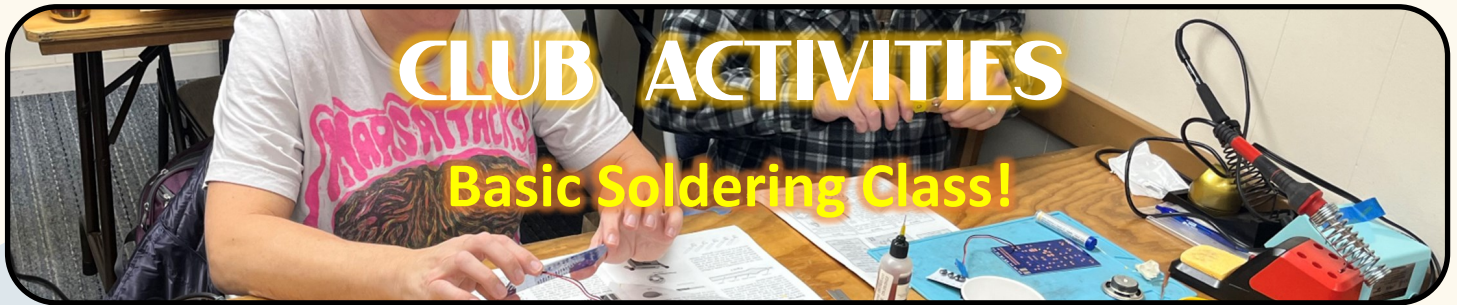


Visiting from Idaho, Rich **KR7W** chats with Randy **WB4SPB**



Dave **W7UUU**, one of the Bigfoot helpers, completed a small handful of certificates from the recent Special Event operation by the club on November 30

Photos this page by Anne **N7ANN**



ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE and rewarding pursuits for ham radio operators is building their own radio projects. Whether it's a simple balun for an antenna, a custom power supply, or a complete receiver/transmitter for a first radio station, there's a unique satisfaction in creating equipment that meets your own specifications and needs. And the essential element that holds it all together, in the literal sense, is a good deal of solder.

This month, the Radio Club of Tacoma held its first soldering class, and it was a big hit.

The class was packed with 13 enthusiastic "electron monkey wrenchers," all eager to develop their soldering skills. Using the club's classroom facilities, each participant had access to a fully equipped solder station. Following 45 minutes of focused instruction on the fundamentals of soldering—including tips on safety, proper technique, and common pitfalls—participants were ready to begin assembling their kits.

The project of the evening was the Elenco SP-1A, a solder practice kit designed to help beginners develop essential skills with clear feedback. As camaraderie grew,

so did excitement. With pizza and soda on hand, the room was abuzz with energy, and before long, flux and solder were flying. Every participant worked diligently

to complete their projects, with all successfully constructing their practice kits by the end of the night.

The fun didn't end when the scheduled time was up, as every-

one stayed an extra hour to ensure their kits were fully completed and functional.

Learning to solder is a fun and valuable skill that encourages both creativity and precision. Whether you're an amateur radio operator, an electronics hobbyist, or even an

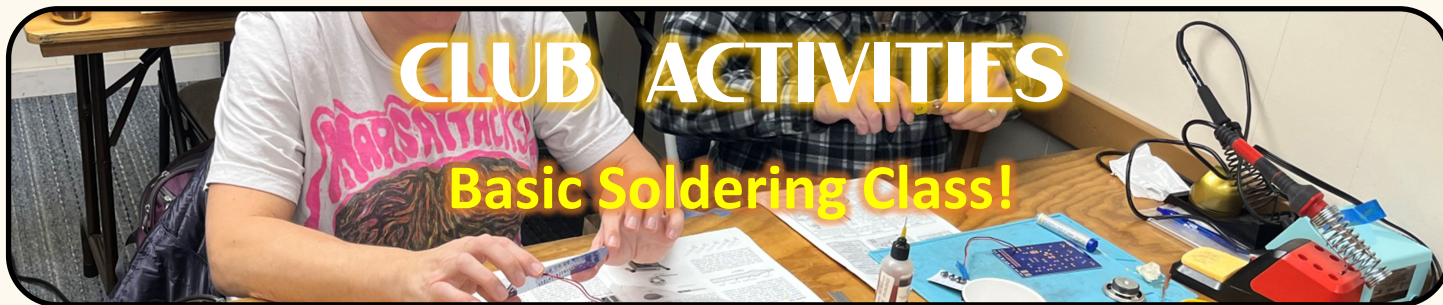
engineer, soldering can enhance your construction skills and foster critical thinking. Plus, there's a unique satisfaction in completing something you've built by hand.

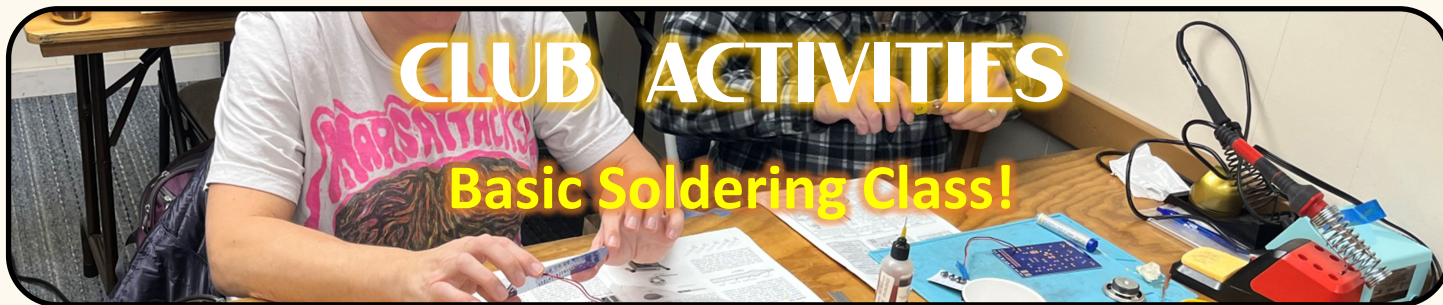
The club is excited to hear your ideas and suggestions for our next project. With such a great turnout for our soldering class, we look forward to offering more hands-on learning opportunities. Hope to see you at the next one!

-Paul **N7OSS**

All photos by Manny **AD7MA** and Adam **W2NCC**









CLUB ACTIVITIES

New! 4th Thursday HF Night

MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ -editor



Gary **WG7X** introduces ham-to-be Brian to the coolness of HF and the Icom IC-7610



Sidney **KK7VHJ** and Julie **KK7VHG** make their first HF FT8 contacts (using **W7DK** with Mike **W7MKE** as control operator). They took a break from their General license class downstairs



Dave **W7GEL** takes some "Thursday evening HF room time" to study up on the Icom IC-7610 owner's manual.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9th WE HAD A nice turnout for the general meeting. This is important, because the November meeting is when our elections are held to choose officers for the coming year. Per the club by-laws, there must be a quorum of 10% of total membership for an election to certify. Fortunately between those attending in person and those on Zoom, we easily achieved that number. Results of the election are posted at the end of this section.

Our program was by Dan Quigley **N7HQ** from FlexRadio, Inc. who gave a wonderful presentation on how Flex radios work, and an intro to the new 8000 series.

At the end of the meeting, by unanimous vote of the board and all present, Oliver Bond **AD7CC** was awarded the status of Honorary Member. Photos of this great part of the meeting are on following pages. And of course, pizza, hotdogs, and cold drinks were enjoyed all around! Good meeting everyone.

-Dave **W7UUU**



*Current VP and President-Elect Adam **W2NCC** on left shares the dais with outgoing President Mike **W7XTZ**. This is Mike's last time to chair a meeting after completing his two terms as the club leader. The December meeting is informal (a banquet) so that makes this one his last.*



Good turnout and lots of great food available at the Eagles Club!



Photos this page: Dave **W7UUU**





Photos this page: Dave W7UUU



GENERAL MEETING

Eagles Aerie #2933 South Tacoma

Honorary Member! Ollie Bond, AD7CC

AT THIS MONTH'S GENERAL MEETING upon the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma, Oliver Bond AD7CC was awarded an Honorary Membership of the club. Ollie has been a member of RCT since 2003 and over the years was a regular at the clubhouse in many ways. Just a few years ago, he was instrumental in helping the club get a new large storage shed built on the property. He's also a long-time donor. Outside of the club, Ollie has been a Master Gardener with the Washington State University Master Gardener program and earlier this year was awarded the Pierce County Golden Service Award for more than 50 years in his role. An educator his whole life, Ollie continues to be an inspiration. Congratulations Ollie on your Honorary Membership. Readers can view a 2-minute video from Pierce County showing Ollie in his element in a WSU garden location following his award. [Click HERE](#) or click the YouTube video link below right.

-Dave W7UUU



Ollie AD7CC and his lovely wife Florence just after he was awarded Honorary Membership



Unanimous vote for Ollie of the meeting attendees.



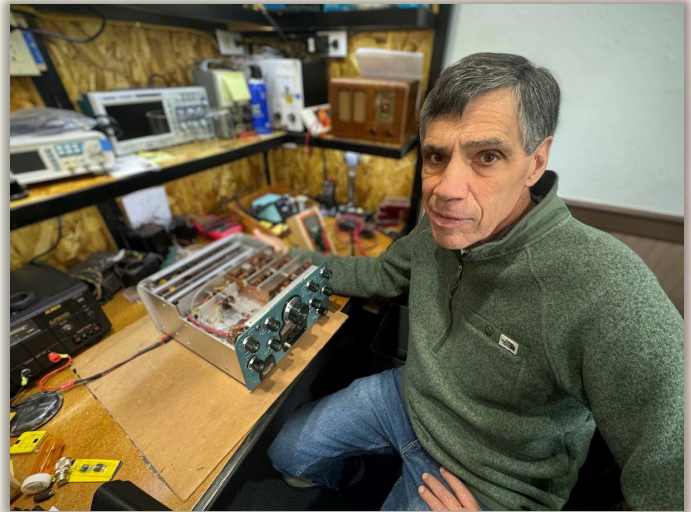
All photos this page by Dave W7UUU



2024 Officer Election Results are in!

EVERY YEAR IN NOVEMBER THE CLUB HOLDS ITS annual election of officers. This year, the offices of President, Treasurer, and Director at Large (Board of Directors) were open for nominations and Election by the membership. This year, we had but one candidate for President, our current VP Adam **W2NCC**. When a sitting VP is elected President, the practice is for the newly-elected President to designate his successor (to be determined). No candidates were nominated for the position of Treasurer. For Director-at-Large, we had 5 candidates running for the 2 open positions: Dave **W7GEL**, Sam **N9MII**, Phil **K7PIA**, Dan **KD7SV**, and Jeff **W8NGS**—all excellent candidates! In the end, the winners were Dave **W7GEL** and Dan **KD7SV**. Congratulations to all.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Director-at-Large Elect Dan Vacanti **KD7SV**
at the repair desk in the W7OS Memorial Museum
where he holds the position of Curator



President-elect Adam Barbera **W2NCC**
at the IC-7610 position in the W7DK HF Room



Director-at-Large Elect Dave Ashley **W7GEL**
at the W7DK Field Day, June 22, 2024

Get to know the Radio Club of Tacoma



ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16th the club held a special open house for the local amateur radio community. Organized by club VP and President-elect Adam Barbera, W2NCC, it was called “Get to Know the Radio Club of Tacoma”. Invitations were sent to several hundred local hams who are not currently members of RCT, and it was also posted on Facebook and other social media in the Amateur Radio sections. A huge ATTA BOY goes out to W7DK Membership Chair, Mike W7XH, for his significant efforts in handling a large targeted email campaign to try to reach hams in the region that might not know about the club, but could very well be interested in what RCT is all about.

In fact, the event wasn’t actually open to current club members (other than those who were designated presenters or assistants). This made for a very unique event—an opportunity to let non-members mingle and not be outnumbered by existing RCT members.

After an initial social hour while the group gathered, President-Elect Adam took over as MC and led the meeting, working through the presenters: Dave W7UUU showing the group a colorful and informative display of past Logger’s Bark magazine issues and a call to writers, Dan KD7SV showed pictures of, and told stories about, the gear in the W7OS museum in the clubhouse; BJ KO7T regaled the crowd on his many POTA adventures, many of them around the

world in exotic locations such as Vietnam, St. Kitts, and other locales; Manny AD7MA, our Planning Committee chair spoke of how RCT is going about guiding the club’s future going forward and his hand in guiding that process; and Randy WB4SPB, who covered key aspects of the club IT network and systems we use.

Turnout was really amazing! We had over 40 show up and it made for a very nice group in the room. Yummy Eagles Club pizzas kept the crowd fed, and midway

through, the club held a raffle for some pretty nice prizes... one of them being a new-in-the-box Yaesu FT-7900RE dual-band FM transceiver (won by Jim, W7JNP from Maple Valley). The other top prize was a new-in-box MFJ chrome iambic paddle key, won by Karen KJ7NAY of Edgewood.

After the formal presentations were over, the group broke out into what became something of a “tradeshow mode” where attendees found themselves visiting all of the various presenters. Paul N7OSS brought a collection of crystal radio projects that he arranged on a table—this was a popular attraction for many in the crowd who had never seen one in person! BJ KO7T had much of his “Global POTA” kit with him, and allowed folks to get “hands on” with some of the antennas that he packs around the world with him. And even I, as lowly Bark



Get to know the Radio Club of Tacoma



editor, had a group gather 'round that wanted to discuss possibilities to write for *The Bark* in the future.

And while there was never pressure to join RCT, before the day was over, we had a number of hams in the room join the club right on the spot, and others say they were going to do so when they got home. We could not have asked for more, and for a more friendly response from so many newcomers.

So to all of you reading this who attended this past Saturday, thank you so much! You really made it the success it was, and all of us in the Radio Club of Tacoma thank you so much for taking the time to attend and see what our club is all about.

We will definitely be making this an annual club event.

-Dave W7UUU

Prize Winners!

Photos by Dave W7UUU



Karen KJ7NAY of Edgewood was the lucky winner of a shiny new MFJ Iambic paddle key! Hopefully this will be her seg-way into the exciting world of CW!



Young Will KK7WMS is 9 years old, and his dad Bill KK7WLP just earned their Tech licenses at the VE session held at W7DK the previous Tuesday! Congrats to both of you!



Jim W7JNP from Maple Valley was the grand prize winner at the event—taking home a new-in-box Yaesu FT-7900R/E dual-band FM transceiver! Congrats, Jim!

Get to know the Radio Club of Tacoma



All photos this page by Dave W7UUU



Randy WB4SPB, IT Director



Manny AD7MA, Planning Committee Chair



BJ KO7T, POTA Coordinator



Dan KD7SV, Museum Curator

Get to know the Radio Club of Tacoma



All photos this page by Dave **W7UUU**



THE FIRST AND LIKELY THE MAIN round of certificate and QSL card processing is “now in the mail”. Over two different afternoons at the clubhouse, we had a mix of two different teams: the Sorting Crew and the Shipping Crew. The first crew was tasked with opening the many received envelopes and sorting out those who had sent an SASE for the QSL card only, and those sending funds for the beautiful Bigfoot Certificate. Each group was carefully set aside for the next phase, shipping. Adam **W2NCC** (right) oversaw the sorting of the raw certificates... a slight snafu at the printer resulted in a second useless page for every certificate that had to be removed first.

Once done, the Shipping crew went to work in teams, processing QSL-only requests using printed QSL strips, then stuffing and sealing the SASE. The Certificate teams had to carefully sort out who received which letter “stomp stamps” and stamped accordingly, and of course then stamping the “Full Stomp” for those who were lucky or persistent enough to work all 7 required letter stations.

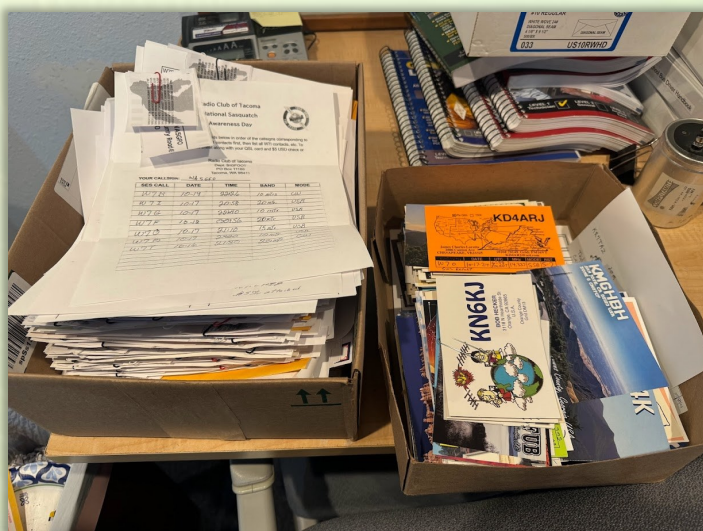
In all, in this first mailing, nearly 400 certificates were sent and around 200 QSL cards. And of course, as more trickle in, the teams will keep working to get them all out in a timely manner.

Thanks to all for making this a great success! -Dave **W7UUU**



Meet One More Operator!

We missed one of our key operators in last month’s roundup of Bigfoot stations—none other than Gary **WG7X** who ran the “Fine Fellows of F” - **W7F** during the special event. Gary also had on his team Adam **W2NCC** and Al **N7OMS**. They did a great job as a team and helped bring in a lot of contacts during the nearly week-long event.





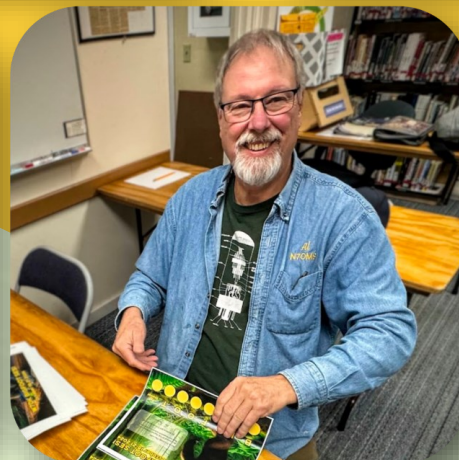
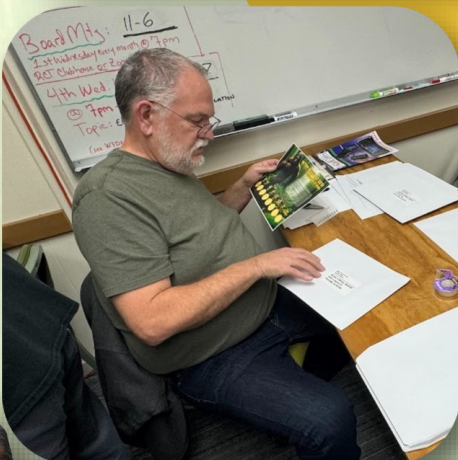
The Sorting Crew

All Photos: Manny AD7MA





The Shipping Crew





Selected Cards & Notes

Here's a sampling of some of the great letters and cards we received for the Bigfoot event. Thanks to all who participated! Right-click any image and "Open in New Tab" to see the full-size image.

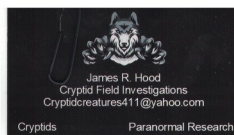
October 23, 2024

Radio Club of Tacoma,

I just wanted to say thanks for the awesome Bigfoot contest you had this past weekend. I worked both W7F and W7O on SSB and the W7F contact was my first ever QSO as a General. I took my test and received my CSCE on Friday the 18th. So, thanks for being out there. How funny is that my first QSO being your Bigfoot contest, that's awesome!!

I've enclosed my QSL Card, a SASE, \$5 check, and your contact sheet. I'm looking forward to getting my first QSL card and your certificate. I'll be looking out to contacting you all again, maybe next year I'll find you on CW??

Thanks,



Dept. Bigfoot
P.O. Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

Dear Gentlemen (or Ladies):

My name is James R. Hood, KESBMP (I am called Rob by most people). I saw your ad on QRZ about the Bigfoot Day Oct 18-21, 2024. I might have even spoke with some of you in the past. Not on the radio, but on the phone or through email. I am an employee of MFJ Enterprises as an Ameritron Tech and have been there for 24 years this week. I am not often active on the air and never got my general class license but am sometimes active locally on 2 meters via a Yaesu handheld.

I write to you today to say that I found your ad in QRZ interesting. Not many people know it, but I am a Cryptid and Paranormal researcher. I have included my card in this letter. Since I was 13 years old I have found the subject fascinating. In college I interviewed eyewitnesses to strange occurrences and continue to do so locally. In March of this year I started a project called Cryptid Field Investigations. So far I have had one expedition to a known location where a Dogman type creature has been observed twice by one witness. This area is close to where a separate eyewitness observed a similar or perhaps the same creature. I am going back later to follow the creek and area deeper and have other places in mind to go as well where similar reports are coming in. Mississippi is known to have some interesting Bigfoot encounters as well as other creatures that by all logic and science should not exist, but somehow continue to be seen. At some point I would like to take all of the knowledge and information I have gained over the years and compile it into a book.

Recently I was on The Eye Of Jupiter podcast with Tom Franklin on Youtube - Episode 36. We discussed several topics such as Bigfoot and other things. I thought that since I could not reach you during the contest to make a contact that I would at least write to you. I do not have a QSL card but did include my Cryptid project card. I would appreciate a QSL card from you if you would like to send one. I posted your QRZ ad on my Facebook news feed as well as in all my related group pages as well. Not many are HAMs but they will still enjoy your ad artwork and the fact that this topic is still alive and well on amateur radio. Thank you and have a great contest!

73

James R. Hood (Rob)
KESBMP
Ameritron Technician
Cryptid & Paranormal Researcher

BIGFOOT - 10/18

THANKS FOR "THE

BIG STOMP." I

KE A CERTIFIC

SHOW OFF. Y

AVE SOME FAN

ROUND HERE!

ALLY APPRECIATE

THE W7* OP

NG SO ACTIVE. G

EM ON "MY" MODES-SS

TY BY THUR NIGHT.

ER WOULDVE DONE

ABOUT ACCURATE

TEARS ON DXMMI

T MON TO RED ON CALLION

73 John WABKCP

31 November 2024

Radio Club of Tacoma
Dept: BIGFOOT
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

Greetings and Salutations fellow ham radio enthusiasts,

I want to say how much I enjoyed the hunt for Bigfoot event. I am not a confesser, but this was different and very enjoyable. I do a lot of FT8 on my Yaesu FT-710, so this was a great opportunity for me to improve my SSB skills, but I still hunted the stations on FT8. I am gratefully sending you this check for \$5.00 for that really great looking certificate you have, and I am hoping that my second QSO with W7O has finally been confirmed so I can get the Big Stomp stamp.

Please mail the certificate to the address on the check; PO Box 1197, San Martin CA 95046. I will be back next year, God willing, and the creek don't rise.

73

Alvin McManus KN6ZVI

how much fun I had chasing Bigfoot as part of the W7DK Bigfoot SES!
the amount of "encounters" I was able to stumble upon on 40-20-10 meter

as he seemed to frequent the CW forest most frequently. As a result, I
improving my Morse skills specifically so that I may have a better chance
saturday next year and achieving the full stomp!

the amazing graphics that you have developed for this event. Absolutely
ges have brought together the two wonderful worlds of radio and Bigfoot in
representative PNW manner. From the powerful, yet hang-out-able version
activation at his local POTA/SOTA to the location appropriate fog, fern,
ing, I was left immediately captivated.

and women of W7DK!

again next year.



how much fun I had chasing Bigfoot as part of the W7DK Bigfoot SES!
the amount of "encounters" I was able to stumble upon on 40-20-10 meter

as he seemed to frequent the CW forest most frequently. As a result, I
improving my Morse skills specifically so that I may have a better chance
saturday next year and achieving the full stomp!

the amazing graphics that you have developed for this event. Absolutely
ges have brought together the two wonderful worlds of radio and Bigfoot in
representative PNW manner. From the powerful, yet hang-out-able version
activation at his local POTA/SOTA to the location appropriate fog, fern,
ing, I was left immediately captivated.

and women of W7DK!

again next year.

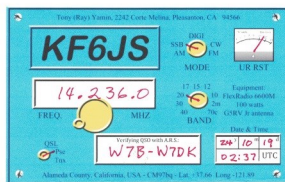


ary Specialty Center
AEC Josephine County Emergency Communications

Hi friends!



Mike -
After our
your signal
improved to
5-5.6. Special
Events are FUN!



Greetings!

Wonderful contact recently - I always like to chase special event stations! I even coordinated and ran one a several years ago - ever hear of "Mule Days" in Bishop, CA? Great fun - hope you enjoyed it too!

For now, please QSL with a Certificate and QSL using the following information (and attached log) to my address above:

Date: 10.18 to 10/19/2024
Time - UTC: Various
Frequency - mhz: 20 and 40 meters
Mode: SSB
Your RST: 5 x 9
Contact name / number: Various
Notes / Comments: THIS IS A GREAT REASON FOR A SPECIAL EVENT! - HOPE TO CATCH YOU NEXT YEAR!

I look forward to adding your Cert-n-QSL to display with my special event station collection.

73's & Tnx Again,

KF6JS - Tony

PS - I KNOW IT'S A LOTTA WORK SO THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT TEAM!
- AND THERE'S A \$5 CHECK ENCLOSED!!





Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click [HERE](#) for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs “shack parlor” we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the [W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum](#)—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ -editor

Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL? Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul W7PFU cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. -editor



W7DK Clubhouse Kitchen on a recent Saturday



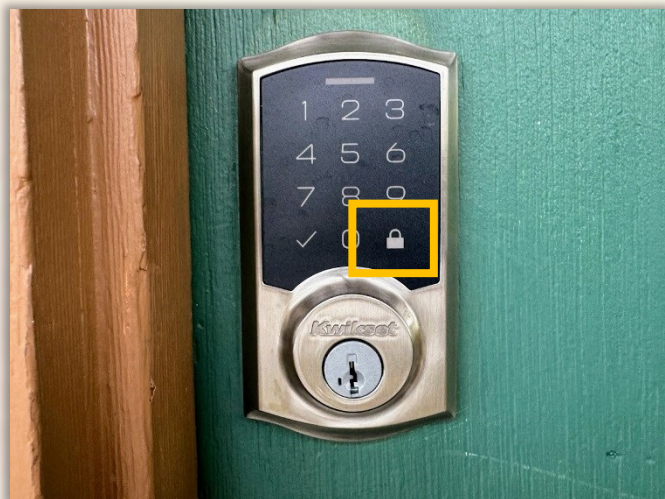


How To Lock The Doors

AS WAS REPORTED in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary **WG7X**, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

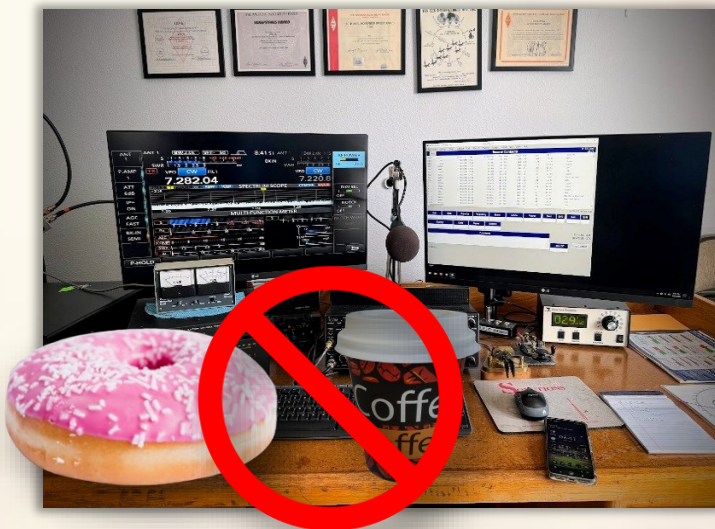
-Dave **W7UUU**



Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups... we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!



THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Editor



Archive Photo








Undated photo from the clubhouse. This would be the Northwest corner of what is now the classroom. The west-facing window is on the left, behind the TV in this photo. Front row, from the left, starting with the lad in the white shirt: Scott Bogue, **WA7IYZ**. To his left is Larry Ziegler, now **KU5U**. To his left, with hands on the chairback, is Otho "Smitty" Smith, **K7ATD** who was President in 1960, and a Board Director in 1966—likely about the time this photo was taken. Back row from the left: Bob Waitman, **WA7IPR** in the tie, then Scotty Huntly **K7CYZ** (the only one of the group I knew really well in the mid-1970s), the man in the plaid is yet not identified. Lastly, the man with his arm on the [Clegg 99'er Transceiver](#) is George Abbott, **WA7BHH**. Special thanks to Nick **K7MO** for his amazing recall of names, faces, and call signs.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news



W7DK

November		December, 2024				January	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 49 10m Social Net	2 Slow Speed CW Net	3 Tuesday Nite Net	4 07:00pm Board meeting	5 06:00pm HF Night	6	7	
8 50  Awards Banquet	9 Slow Speed CW Net	10 07:00pm VE License Exam ... Tuesday Nite Net	11	12 06:00pm HF Night	13	14 01:00pm General meeting ...	
15 51 10m Social Net	16 Slow Speed CW Net	17 Tuesday Nite Net	18	19 06:00pm HF Night	20	21	
22 52 10m Social Net	23 Happy Festivus! 	24 Tuesday Nite Net	25 Merry Christmas! 	26  KWANZAA	27  Happy Hanukkah	28	
29 1 10m Social Net	30	31 Straight Key Nite 	January	January	January	January	
<div> <div>Recurring</div> <div>Special</div> <div>Contests</div> <div>All Categories ...</div> </div>							

Did you know?

December gets its name from the Latin *decem* which means "ten". This is because December was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus, which started in 750 BC. Later, the months January and February were added to the beginning of the calendar, which bumped December to 12 but it still kept its name.

RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"... that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write articles*. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but **NEVER** is the text... we don't allow any AI written article submissions ■ -editor

Last month's Hidden Object:



Right on the front cover!

Last Month's Hidden Word: **WN7AWK**
It was hidden in the Donor's List of Salmon Run donors on page 66. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!



RETURN TO
HOME PAGE





HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, **WA7BNM** for publishing his "[Contest Calendar](#)" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics

of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.



December 2024

+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 2
+ QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0300Z, Dec 4
+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Dec 6
+ PRO CW Contest	1600Z, Dec 6 to 1559Z, Dec 7
+ FT Challenge	1800Z, Dec 6 to 2359Z, Dec 7
+ PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 15
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
+ TRC Digi Contest	0600Z, Dec 13 to 1800Z, Dec 14
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
+ QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Dec 14
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Dec 15
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Dec 18
+ AGB-Party Contest	1600Z-1700Z, Dec 19
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Croatian DX Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Dec 21 to 0100Z, Dec 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 24
+ DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
+ YB Banggai DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 28



Click Calendar to visit online

WA7BNM Contest Calendar data used with permission

THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?



W7DK

YOU! YES YOU! Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest.

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink, Vara, Satellite
13. Understanding How Electronic Circuits Work

Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
 Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
 Steve AF7YD 253-988-087(1,2,7,10,11,13)
 Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9)
 Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
 Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
 Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
 Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
 Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)

Note: Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



IN THE FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE OF THE BARK, readers were introduced to the [QRP Labs ProRock2](#) device that is a highly programmable multi-frequency generating device designed to replace crystals in certain types of radio circuits. Steve, [KW4H](#), of Vail Arizona has become an expert in the use of these amazing devices for restoration projects of all kinds.

He's just released a kit version of his ProgRock2 Integration Board that makes it easy for users to build up boards of their own, without all of the required backend circuitry. Steve is a friend, and I have no affiliation with his project other than I would like to simply make others aware of his new kit version.

Here's the official release notice:

ProgRock2 Integration Board Released

In mid-November, [KW4H \(Steve Reed\)](#) announced the availability of his integration board for the QRP Labs ProgRock2 "Programmable Crystal" module. Steve's integration board, which was developed over months of testing and analysis, takes care of all of the heavy lifting required to use the ProgRock2 in your projects.

The [QRP Labs ProgRock2](#) is a programmable crystal replacement that has three independent square-wave outputs with a frequency range of 3.5 KHz to approximately 300 MHz. The ProgRock2 has 8 selectable frequency banks, each with 3 independent programmable frequencies – for a stunning total of 24 frequencies at your fingertips. The [KW4H](#) integration board handles the bank switching functions for you – you just supply a switching voltage of as little as 3 VDC to any of the 8 bank selector pins. The integration board also supplies regulated power to the ProgRock2 (you just deliver anywhere from 9

to 35 VDC to the board), and also provides buffering between the ProgRock2 outputs and your project. The entire board, with the ProgRock2 mounted on it, measures only 3.4" by 1.9".

The ProgRock2 is an excellent solution for restoring defective/ drifted oscillators in older gear, but is also a fine performer for integration into many other projects where a reliable, stable frequency source is needed. And if you need a sine wave instead of a square wave, QRP Labs also offers low pass filters that can be easily connected to the outputs of the [KW4H](#) integration board. The possibilities are up to your imagination!

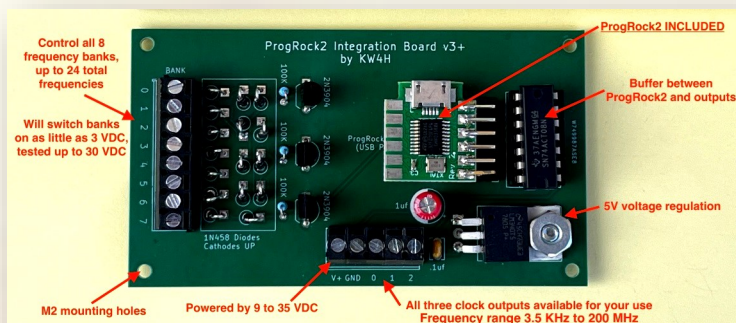
The [KW4H](#) integration board can currently only be purchased only through the "[Ham Made Gear](#)" section on QRZ. It can be purchased in three configurations: (1) Fully built and tested, with the ProgRock2 chip already onboard, (2) in kit form but you supply the ProgRock2, or (3) the bare circuit board (full DIY).

You can read more about Steve's ProRock2 board at [THIS LINK](#).

Again, I have *no affiliation* with this project other than being a friend of Steve's and can vouch for how well these boards work. Over the course of last winter, he worked with both my Heathkit HR-1680 receiver and HX-1681 transmitter ("Heathkit Twins") both of which are now converted fully to ProgRock crystal replacements for all of their oscillator requirements.

The ProgRock2 truly represents a leap forward for those of us who like to restore the old rigs but are hampered by the modern lack of suitable crystals.

-Dave [W7UUU](#)



COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

THIS MONTH'S COOL OLD RIG isn't really a rig... but certainly counts as a cool old piece of gear! It's a 1940s Remington "Mill" typewriter. This isn't just a normal old mechanical typewriter—it's a specialized machine designed solely for telegraphers to transcribe received Morse to a printed page. The term "mill" is just a colloquial term used for over a hundred years to describe any sort of typewriter-like machine to bang out messages. Think of how a grist mill "grinds out flour" - that's the origin of the term "Mill" as it relates to typewriters.

By the 1930s, the concept had evolved to where specialized typewriters were being built by all of the major U.S. manufacturers of such machines at the time: Underwood, Corona, Mills, Royal, Remington and others—including other brands made outside of the US.

What sets a "Mill" apart from a normal typewriter is the typeset that's used. Most civilian typewriters used both upper and lower case letters, but a Mill was limited to strictly all-caps. This was a deliberate design choice, as using capital letters helped prevent misinterpretation when typing out messages received via Morse Code. Additionally, the number zero was represented with a slash through it, to differentiate from a capital O like this: Ø vs O.

In researching this article, I learned that the one of the most iconic of the Mill typewriters was the Mills "MITE" (Mills Improved Typewriter Equipment). The MITE was specifically engineered for the US Navy to withstand the harsh environments aboard naval vessels and be extremely resistant to salt air and rough handling.

Mills also improved the typeface to produce cleaner and more consistent type with bold characters, that printed in a very high level of quality no matter the varying typing skills of the

operator. A refined mechanism allowed for the speediest of Morse operators to bang out printed code messages with less chance of the letters jamming during typing.

The RCT clubhouse has a Remington Mill that dates to around 1940. While its actual history and provenance isn't known at this time, it very likely had a military background at some point in its history. Beginning in December 1963, this machine was used to type the very first "trial edition" of The Logger's Bark

(see the article on the next page). The first full edition of The Bark in January 1964 presented many club members with what was likely their first exposure to the typeface and style of typing created by a Mill.

By today's standards in the age of the Internet of course, "all caps" is seen as a rude gesture akin to "shouting" and is most often quite frowned upon.

But for many a telegrapher throughout the 20th century, the printed output of a Mill represented the most professional manifestation of a Morse Code message as could be had.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH A MILL FONT FOR THE FUN OF IT ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS DOWNLOAD THE MILL FONT AT [THIS LINK](#). JUST CLICK THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD IT, THEN DOUBLE CLICK THE TTF FILE TO OPEN IT. IN THE UPPER LEFT CLICK "INSTALL" AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. ON A MAC JUST ADD TO YOUR FONTS FOLDER.

NOW YOU CAN TYPE YOUR MORSE MESSAGES LIKE A PRO! 73 FOR NOW

-DAVE W7UUU // 1234567890 !

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The FIRST EVER Issue of The Bark

December, 1963



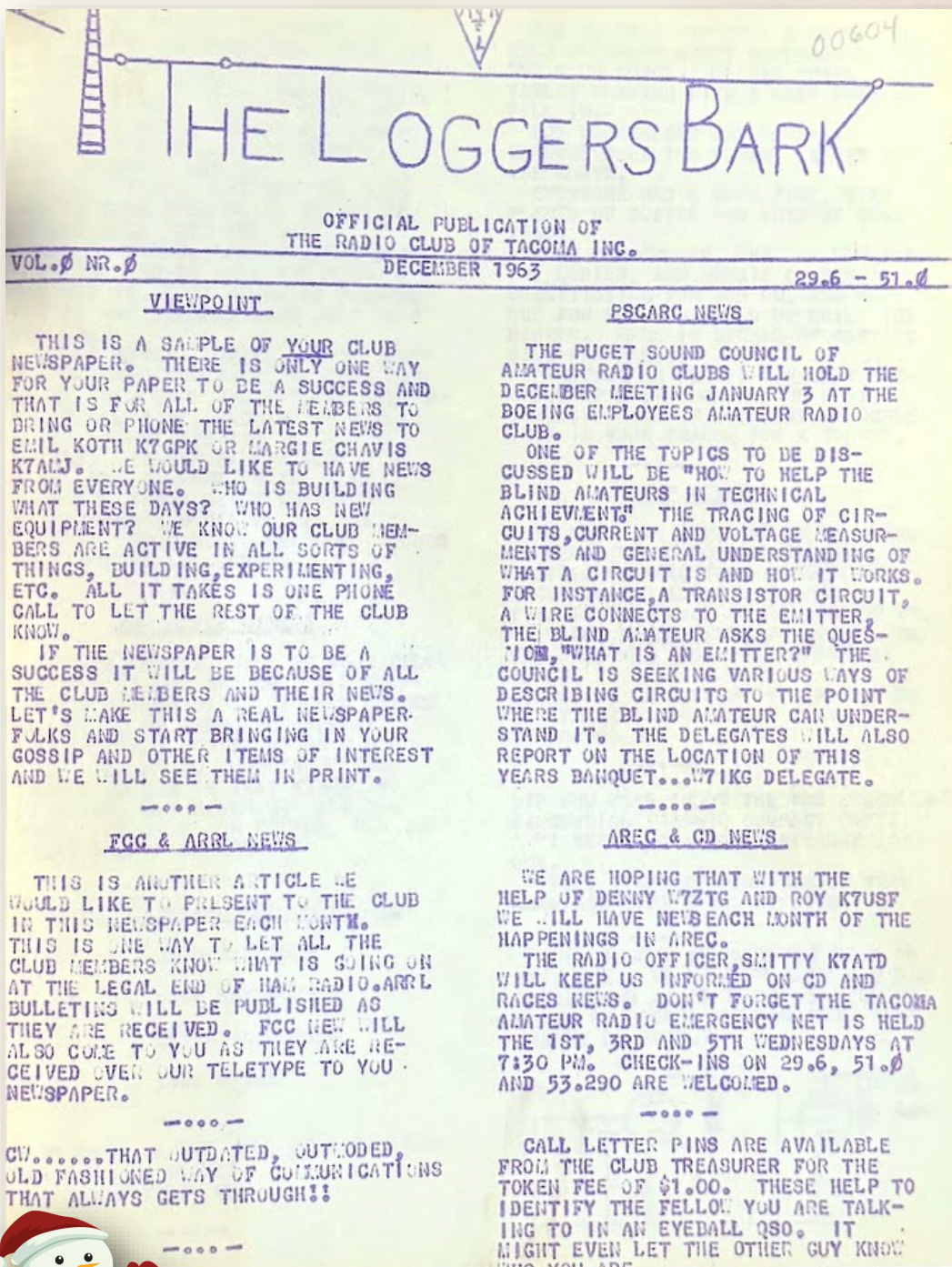
W7UUU

SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO THIS month, the first “test run” of The Logger’s Bark was printed. Note that it is Volume 0 and Number 0 indicating it was more of an announcement of the coming newsletter—the first *full* issue followed the next month, in January 1964 (we will have a reprint of the first page in next month’s Bark). It was a team effort back then, consisting of Margie Chavis **K7AMJ**, Ralph Rawlings **W7COP**, Dick Ryan **W7RGD**, Emil Koth **K7GPK**, Scotty Huntley **K7CYZ** and Merl Chavis **W7IKG**.

The first issues were produced by Dick Ryan **W7RGD** on a mimeograph machine donated by Max Bice **W7AEA**. The stencil for the mimeograph was typed on a “Mill” typewriter—a special version of machine that only types capital letters and the zeroes have a slash through them. This month’s “Cool Old Rig” features the actual Mill that was used to type the early Logger’s Bark newsletters.

I have to wonder what the folks on that first Logger’s Bark team would think if they could see how far we have come to truly bringing professional amateur publication to the world in computer format!

-Dave **W7UUU**



Front page of the pre-announcement and trial run of the first Logger's Bark—December 1963. [Click the image for a large view](#)



MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

■ -editor

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

Name	Call	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	52
David	AC7KP	26
Will	KK7WMS	22
Dave	W7GEL	11
Becky	KG7FZH	7
Julie	KK7VHG	6
Sydney	KK7VHG	5
Al	N7OMS	4
Sam	KK7USO	3
Mike	W7XH	2
Manny	AD7MA	1
Gary	WG7X	1



Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500



Photos this page provided by

Dave **W7UUU**

THE FUNNY PAPERS

Ham Humor for Humorous Hams



Got a ham radio funny? Send it in!!



NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

Courtesy Bill Feidt, **NG3K**
used with permission

December						
2024 Dec01	2024 Dec10	Cuba	T46W NEW	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241121	By CO6XDX CO6XX CO6VV CO6SDY CO6RK CO6OU CM6EZ CL6AX fm Cayo Santa Maria (IOTA NA-204, FL02lp); 160-6m; POTA activity fm CU0292 and CU0298; QSL via CO6QK
2024 Dec02	2024 Dec07	India	AU2K	Club Log OQRS	VE3LYC 20241020	By VE3LYC VU2RS VU3WEW VU3DXA fm Kanika I (IOTAAS-179); 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; full QSL details at: https://au2k.weebly.com/log-qs1.html
2024 Dec08	2024 Dec18	Br Virgin Is	VP2VMM	LoTW	TDDX 20240726	By K2KW AG9A KD4D K5PI; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest; QSL via KU9C
2024 Dec13	2024 Dec19	Bangladesh	S21DX	LoTW	OPDX 20240818	By 18 S21 ops fm Dhal Char I (IOTA AS-140); 160-10m; SSB RTTY FT8 (f/h); 4 stations; QSL via EB7DX
2024 Dec20	2024 Dec31	French Guiana	TO0J	LoTW	OZ0J 20240331	By OZ0J; 80-10m; CW SSB, but mainly FT8 (mainly f/h); QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Dec26	2025 Jan04	Dominica	J75K	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240804	By FM5WD IV3JVJ IK3ZQA fm IOTA NA-101; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; QSL via IV3JVJ
2024 Dec30	2025 Jan03	Mariana Is	KH0	LoTW	TDDX 20240722	By AJ6VJ as KH0/AJ6VJ fm San Roque; 40 20 17 15 12 10m; CW SSB FT8; 50w; vertical; QSL via Club Log OQRS

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.





BARK READER AND OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTOR Ricky KR7W from Ammon, Idaho sent in this rather clever shop trick that is totally in aid of safety, as well as “body isolation” for testing purposes.

He was working on a Heathkit HW-32A single-band SSB transceiver (20-meters SSB only, introduced in 1966 with an original price of \$99.95 less power supply). While doing a repair and restoration, the question came up: “since the original rig uses a fixed Pi-Network loading capacitor of 290 pF, is it possible that may not in fact be the optimum value, since most rigs of this era used variable loading capacitors?”. So for testing purposes, Ricky removed the fixed capacitor and replaced it temporarily with a 365 pF variable capacitor. If you look closely at the photo, you can see where standard wood-working style double-sided tape is holding the capacitor down.

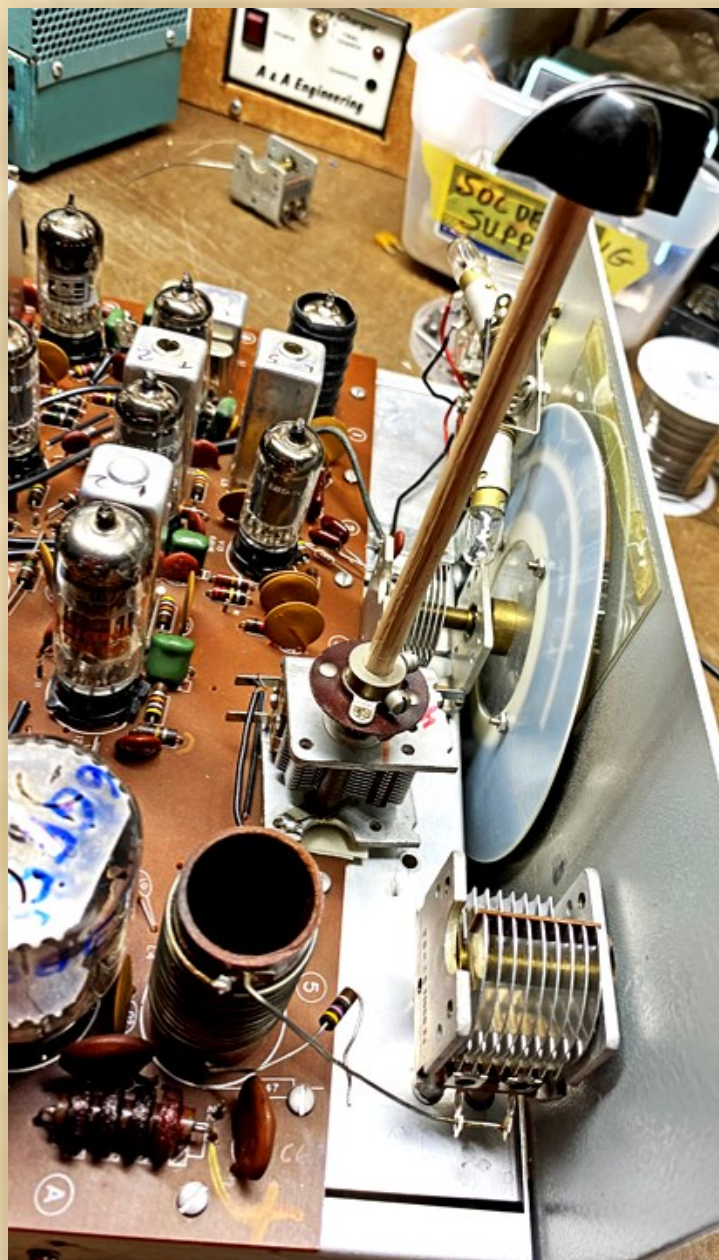
But Ricky's concern was two-fold: would adjusting the knob right at the capacitor bring “body capacitance” into play and cause the Pi Network coil to detune due to hand proximity? Secondly, being so close to the 6GE5 sweep-tube final, risk of RF burns from the tank coil or heat from the tube made the solution seem prudent.

So being the clever bench tech Ricky is, he devised a system using a 1/4” wooden dowel, a phenolic shaft coupler to screw onto the variable, and of course a “chicken head” black knob at the top for making adjustments. He cleverly calls this solution “The Chicken’s Stick Knob Extender”. It allowed him the ease and safety of testing varying values of capacitance in the circuit.

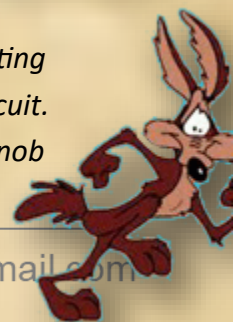
Alas, the experiment was for naught. No value of adjusted variable capacitance successfully peaked the output power of the rig, so his solution must lie elsewhere.

But it wasn’t a “no gain” solution, in that Ricky now has a clever way for dealing with similar situations in the future.

-Dave W7UUU, photo and concept submitted by Rich KR7W



*Chicken’s Stick Knob Extender
used in a Heathkit HW-32A for testing
for optimal capacitor value in a circuit.
Note the black “Chicken’s Head” knob*

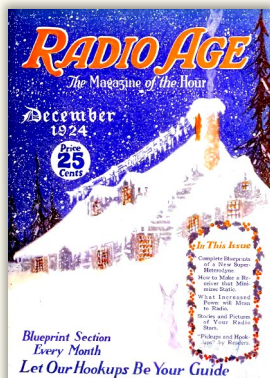


STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

RADIO AGE MAGAZINE PRINT AD FROM 100 YEARS AGO this month, featuring the Telmaco Acme Receiver. Radio interest was exploding globally at that time and manufacturers of virtually anything electronic were wanting to get in on the frenzy—it was very much like the “internet of the 20s” ■ -editor



Did You Know?

TELMACO IS A PORTMANTEAU OF **Telephone Maintenance Company**. I couldn't find any meaningful information on what this company did prior to getting into the radio business, but presumably they were involved in servicing and repairing telephone exchange switch gear, based in downtown Chicago.

But the explosion of “wireless” in the first quarter of the 20th century was a siren song to countless companies with even the *slightest* connection to all things electrical or electronic. And Telmaco was no exception. Their first radio products began appearing in ads in 1921 in “Radio News”, “Radio Age”, and “Radio” magazine. The series called the Acme Receivers are the best known. However, Telmaco didn't actually build them. They were designed and built by a company called Tri-City Electric of Davenport, Iowa and they were simply branded for and marketed by Telmaco. This was very common in the early days of many electrical products, to have a single “highly skilled” firm actually design and build products, only to be shipped to and sold under contracted brand names.

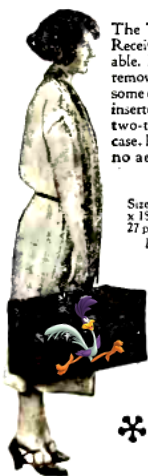
The 1924 Acme Receiver, a 4-tube TRF (tuned radio frequency) design in a “reflex” configuration which allowed the tubes to serve dual functions, sold for around \$80 in kit form, or \$125 fully assembled and tested (\$1,395 and \$2,180, respectively, in today's dollars!). The Acme Model P-1 (pictured in the ad at the left) could either be used in a portable case (as shown) or could be fitted in a fixed cabinet for use at home on a table. It ran solely on battery power, requiring an “A” battery for the tube filaments, a “B” battery for high-voltage to the tube plates, and a “C” battery for grid bias for the tubes.

Weighing in at 27 pounds, and covering only the AM broadcast band, it would be considered unwieldy by today's standards, but was a high-end luxury “portable” radio in its time.

Telmaco never went on to make its own products, and the last Telmaco Acme receiver ad was 1926 (two very similar models). But once the Great Depression hit, the company was never heard from again. Today, the Telmaco Acme receivers are highly collectible. Wile E. Coyote *undoubtedly* preferred Telmaco ACME Receivers over all other brands. -Dave W7UUU

68 RADIO AGE for December, 1924

Telmaco Acme Receiver The Ideal Receiver for all Seasons



The Telmaco Acme Receiver is truly portable. May be instantly removed from handsome carrying case and inserted into beautiful two-tone mahogany case. No outside loop, no aerial, no ground required.

Size of Case 8" x 10" x 15". Weighs only 27 pounds complete. Easily Carried.



Acme 4-Tube Reflex Circuit Used securing selectivity, distance and volume with minimum battery consumption.

Complete in itself. Easily carried from room to room in your home or to office, neighbors, etc. Take it along and have music, entertainment, speeches, news, market reports wherever you happen to be.

Instantly ready for use as it is. You can use external antenna and ground, loop and loud speaker if desired. 4 tubes (fully protected by shock absorber sockets)—equal to 7 tubes, due to reflexing and use of crystal detector.

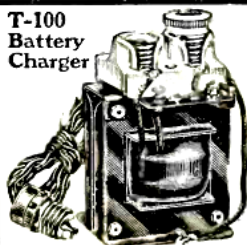
Reasonably Priced Write for Free illustrated circular fully describing Telmaco Acme Receiver. Complete Telmaco 64 page catalog containing 20 circuits in blue and describing the best in radio sent postpaid for 10c.

Dealers! Catalog and Price List furnished to all bona fide dealers making request on their business stationery.

Radio Division

Quality Radio
Exclusively
Established 1918

TELEPHONE MAINTENANCE CO.
20 South Wells Street Dept. C Chicago, Illinois



T-100
Battery
Charger

The Best and Lowest Priced on the Market

This battery charger operates on 110 volt, 60 cycle, A. C. circuit, charging a 6 volt battery at a 2 ampere rate. Standard 2 ampere charging tube is used. The T-100 is the lowest priced first-class charger on the market. Large numbers now in use have proved entirely satisfactory. No vibrating parts to get out of order. Absolutely noiseless in operation. Furnished with plug and cord for lamp socket. Battery leads marked. Fuse protects charger from accidental short circuit of 110 volt leads. Fully guaranteed. Price complete, with 2 ampere tube, \$12.00

Radio Division

TELEPHONE MAINTENANCE CO.
20 So. Wells St., Dept. C Chicago, Ill.

Quality Radio Exclusively



Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025! To start the year, the club will again participate in Winter Field Day on January 25th and 26th from [Kanaskat-Palmer State Park \(US-3209\)](#) and will again schedule a POTA activation each month (except December). The club's current schedule is:

PARK: [Kanaskat-Palmer State Park](#)

DATE: January 24th - January 26, 2025

TIMES: 4:00 PM PST

PARK: [Saltwater State Park](#)

DATE: February 16, 2025

TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: [Dash Point State Park](#)

DATE: March 16, 2025

TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: [Lake Sammamish State Park](#)

DATE: April 20, 2025

TIMES: 10:00 AM PST

January will be our second annual **Winter Field Day POTA Event**. We have reserved 2 yurts to accommodate 6 people. If you wish to stay in a Yurt, the cost is \$40.00 per person and must be paid to BJ Rollison (KO7T) no later than December 17, 2024. Bring your

own food and drinks, and bedding. If you want to rough it, or have a trailer you can also reserve a campsite by going to [Washington State Parks Reservation System](#). For more details, please contact potaops@w7dk.org

Everyone is invited to come to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counterpoise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or email BJ Rollison (KO7T) for more information. -BJ KO7T



BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation at



THE LATEST W7DK POTA EVENT TOOK PLACE on November 10th at [Dash Point State Park, US-3179](#). Weather in the Northwest this time of year can be interesting and often fun to be a part of. This time, we were treated to fog, followed by blue skies, with the next wet system holding off until later in the day.

BJ, **KO7T**, had us meeting at the upper level of the park under the picnic shelter. It would be hard to find a more exciting place to set up. The view from the bluff was outstanding, and the takeoff angle for the antennas benefited from being so high up with saltwater below. BJ's setup is truly something to see, and watching him put it all together was a master class in mobile operations.

With POTA, however, you still have to be prepared. During the final steps, as BJ applied RF to his [Buddipole antenna system](#), the SWR was not what it should have been. After some quick checks with a very small MFJ antenna analyzer, the issue was traced to a shorted coax jumper cable! This is where you find out if you really are prepared with the proper test equipment and spare parts—BJ was.

By this time, Mike, **W7MKE**, was set up and calling CQ on SSB. Our first visitor arrived, Ben, **K17JKX**. He showed a good understanding of what was going on, and we hope to see him at future POTA events with equipment in tow. BJ was making solid contacts, and some of the QSOs Mike was getting included very good signal reports. Doug, **AB7DG**, arrived and began setting up at another picnic table with many components of his mobile setup that were brand new to him. I would glance over and see him with directions in hand, putting together his station, which consisted of a [Xiegu G-90 transceiver](#) and [Buddipole antenna system](#).

Around this time, I decided to take the plunge and asked BJ if I could operate his station. After showing me the basics, I began making FT8 contacts at a pretty good rate! BJ then went over to help Doug with his new setup, while Mike, next to me, really started to roll. Visitors Mel and Barb Courtney, attracted by all the noise, came over to visit. We explained a bit about the club and what we were doing. But Mel was pretty firm

about having enough hobbies already. Barb on the other hand was showing real interest.

Doug, around this time, proudly announced that he had logged into the 40-meter Noontime Net and was ready to try some POTA contacts. John, **N7TES**, arrived after having set up below and reported making about 35 contacts. A very good POTA day was had by all, and we even stayed dry.

Thanks to BJ for the ham radio memories. I look forward to the next adventure. Please review the schedule on the first page of this column and maybe make plans to join us next time!

-AI **N7OMS**



Author AI, **N7OMS** at BJ's POTA Station



Visitors Barb & Mel Courtney

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

Hidden Word Contest

In honor of Jean Shepherd K2ORS, this month's hidden word is "**Fragile**" - pronounced in 'A Christmas Story' as "Fra-GEE-lay". It's hidden in plain sight somewhere in this issue of The Bark. Be the **first** to find it and I will send you free of charge an envelope of cool bumper stickers!

But this page doesn't count!

Hidden Object Contest

IN KEEPING WITH THE THEME of this page, this month's "Hidden Object" also comes from the Jean Shepherd movie—the Red Ryder BB gun that features so prominently in the film. An image of the BB gun, just like below, is hidden in plain sight somewhere in this issue of *The Bark*. Be the first to find it and I will send you free of charge an envelope of cool bumper stickers. But as with the hidden word, *this page doesn't count!*



Famous Ham December Birthday

ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED of famous hams would have to be the multi-talented storyteller, writer, TV personality and actor, Jean Shepherd (often confused erroneously with astronaut Alan Shepard). Jean was an active amateur radio operator his whole life, as **K2ORS**. His interest in ham radio laid the foundation for his later career in broadcast radio where he became a well-known celebrity. His career spanned not just radio but into TV and film as well. In 2005, Shepherd was inducted (posthumously) into the National Radio Hall of Fame. But most famously in our collective memories today, he's known as the writer of the 1983 beloved Christmas classic, *A Christmas Story*.

-Dave W7UUU



STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

Survey Center!



Licensed Hams Only: How old are you at this moment?

Edit

9 or younger	<div></div>	0 vote(s)	0.0%
10-19	<div></div>	1 vote(s)	0.4%
20-29	<div></div>	4 vote(s)	1.6%
30-39	<div></div>	20 vote(s)	8.2%
40-49	<div></div>	28 vote(s)	11.4%
50-59	<div></div>	37 vote(s)	15.1%
* 60-69	<div></div>	89 vote(s)	36.3%
70-79	<div></div>	57 vote(s)	23.3%
80-89	<div></div>	9 vote(s)	3.7%
90 or older	<div></div>	0 vote(s)	0.0%

Informal and unscientific poll of QRZ Users, between the dates of October 15 and November 25, 2024 asking licensed hams their ages. Definitely the classic "Bell Curve" on display! And you don't need to be a statistician to interpret the results: Ham Radio Operators are an aging lot!



Should the term "Elmer" be retired from use in amateur radio?

Edit

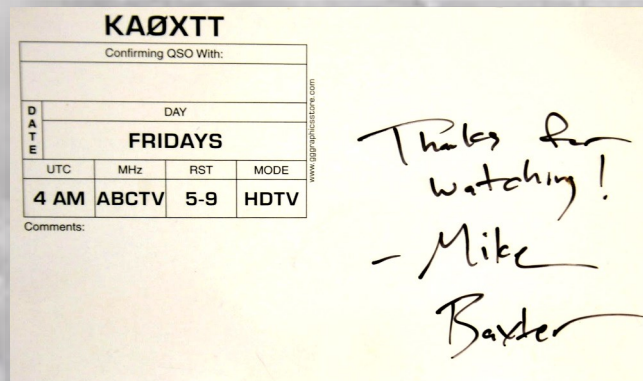
Yes - it's a dumb term and should not be used	<div></div>	26 vote(s)	25.0%
* No - it's part of ham radio culture	<div></div>	47 vote(s)	45.2%
Undecided - I could go either way and don't really care. It's a non-issue not worth arguing.	<div></div>	31 vote(s)	29.8%

The term "Elmer" vs. "Mentor" is a hot-topic among hams. This unscientific survey reveals that less than half of the hams (on QRZ anyway) approve of using the term "Elmer".

QSL Card of the Month



This month's **QSL of the month** is more of a novelty than an actual QSL card. The very popular 9-season TV show "Last Man Standing" starring Tim Allen (Timothy Allen Dick), portrayed an occasional ham radio operator with the fictitious call sign **KAØXTT** (XTT = "Ex Tool Town" - Allen's earlier hit TV show). In the last years of the show's running, if you sent an SASE to the **KAØXTT** address (now defunct!) you'd receive back this nice QSL card, signed by Allen's character, Mike Baxter. Tim Allen actually got his own real call sign—**KK0OTD** in September 2014, but he was never really active on the air and the call sign lapsed this year. But it's still fun to have the QSL card in my collection, regardless. **Do you have a fun card to share?** Send in a SCAN of the front and back, and tell me the story. ■ -editor



W7DK LIVING HISTORIES

Member video interviews and profiles

W7UUU



AS MOST MEMBERS KNOW, the Radio Club of Tacoma has been around for a long time—founded in 1916. Thirty-nine years later, one of our members, John Kelley W7KKN (SK), worked at the local TV station KTNT. He knew his way around a camera and editing suite.

John loaded up his 16mm film camera and produced a pretty impressive film of our club's 1955 Field Day, during which we won top club score for the 7th District.

Although the original film was silent, KTNT's head announcer later recorded a voice-over, likely on an open-reel deck at the studio. Over the years, the film aged and the audio was transferred to various formats—eventually landing on a cheap Radio Shack cassette tape sometime in the 1980s. The film itself was transferred to VHS, but during the process, some splices fell apart. A few clips were clearly lost, and others were pieced back together out of sequence.

In the 1980s and earlier, the film and audio were played together by starting the film and hitting "Play" on the tape deck—more or less in sync but not perfect. The last time anyone watched the two together was decades ago.

In August and September, I found the VHS tape and the cassette (thanks to member Nick, K7MO), and painstakingly reassembled them. What you'll see in the video is the result of that restoration effort. I

resequenced the film, fixed the splices, and used temporal shifting to stretch or shrink sections to keep the audio as aligned as possible. It was a lot of work, but in the end, it turned out great.

There are two short films here: the 1955 Field Day, complete with audio, and a 3-minute silent short at the end, showing how different hams were back then when setting up an impromptu tower for the 1957 Field Day! I

added a ragtime score to liven up that silent footage.

I can finally post this, because YouTube, in their wisdom, gave me a "copyright strike" for the original 1955 soundtrack—where KTNT had used a looped section of a 1942 recording of a Stravinsky piece. I had to wait 30 days for the "content creator" (the 1942 record label!) to respond. After 30

days with no response (surprise, surprise!), YouTube released the video to be publicly shared.

So here it is—a glimpse of what Field Day looked like in 1955. The audio is still a bit scratchy, but any further cleanup degraded the spoken word, so I left it as is. Even if you just skim through it, don't miss the second short film about the impromptu tower—it's pretty cringe-worthy by today's standards. Hams sure had a different attitude back then!

-Dave W7UUU

W7DK Living Histories Project #12



Click picture to watch the video



Ham Shack of the Month



This is the new shack of 13-year old Samuel, **KK7USO**. His Icom IC-2200H (left) gets him on 2-meters and he's a regular check-in for the W7DK Tuesday Night Net. He just acquired a nice Icom IC-706MKII HF transceiver (he's only on 10 meters right now with an OCF 10m dipole he just installed). **Says Samuel:** "I have long known about ham radios and got them mixed up with satellite phones. But I always thought they would be very expensive (until I learned you can start out with a \$26 one!). Once I found out you can get a Baofeng, I bought a training program for Tech and General on [Ham Radio Prep's](#) website. I started studying in November 2023 but with school in the way, I never really got much done. Once school ended, my Dad made me finish it—not wanting me to waste my own money! I tested online at age 12 on August 3. I'm now age 13 am studying to get my General by 2025". Samuel hopes to join the Radio Club of Tacoma soon—welcome to ham radio, Samuel! -Dave **W7UUU**

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU



THIS MONTH'S NEW HOT THING is the Icom ID-52A Plus 60th Anniversary edition handheld transceiver. It's pretty typical for the "Big Three" Japanese manufacturers to release limited-edition anniversary rigs for the amateur radio market, that often strike a price point that raises eyebrows. The ID-52A (successor to the ID-51A) is no exception—\$729.95 for a dual-band HT certainly puts in that rarefied air.

So let's start with the basics:

Frequency Coverage & Modes:

Receive: 0.52-999.999 MHz (with some gaps)
Transmit: 144-148 MHz (2m), 430-450 MHz (70cm)
Modes: FM, FM-N, AM (receive only), DV (D-STAR)
Share Picture: Share pictures with other users and see received pictures on the color display (DV mode)
Note this option requires optional software.
Power Output: 5W (high), 2.5W (medium), 1W (low), 0.1W (super low)

Design particulars:

The ID-52A Plus comes with a bit higher finish-level with 60th Anniversary edition engraving and a sleek, glossy black finish. It has an IPX7 waterproof rating, which means it can be submerged in water up to 1 meter deep for up to half an hour without sustaining damage. So it's certainly good for outdoor use.

The handheld features a large 2.3-inch color LCD screen, which is certainly an improvement over its predecessor's monochrome display. Icom says this screen is bright and easy to read, even in direct sunlight, and provides a more user-friendly experience with intuitive menus.

One of the cool new features is the "dual-band, dual-receive capability", allowing users to listen to two frequencies simultaneously, even across different bands. This is particularly useful for monitoring both D-STAR and analog signals at the same time.

However, it's worth noting that the radio lacks native APRS support, which may be a downside for users heavily involved in APRS activities. While it does provide basic GPS functions for location sharing, full APRS capabilities require additional workarounds and hardware. For a radio in this price range, I'm surprised APRS isn't an included option.

Connectivity & Battery:

The ID-52A Plus offers Bluetooth support to pair the radio with wireless headsets and control it via Icom's RS-MS1A smartphone app, which is free in the Google Play app store. (I assume the RS-MS1A apple

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

version of the app works with this radio, but I didn't see it specifically called out in the literature so best to check with Icom).

Charging is made very convenient with a USB-C port, enabling the use of common power sources like power banks or your cell phone charger. The included 2,000 mAh battery provides about 6-7 hours of typical use, although heavy users might want a spare or higher-capacity pack for extended sessions.

So is it worth the \$729.95 price tag?

The ID-52A Plus is no question a top-tier HT with a price to match, and certainly not for everyone. Here's a quick look at the pros and cons:

Pros:

High Build Quality: Rugged and waterproof, ready for field use.

Color Display: Clear, vibrant, and easy to navigate.

Dual-Band, Dual-Receive: Simultaneous monitoring of two frequencies, including digital and analog.

D-STAR Integration: Strong digital voice features, great for those who use D-STAR networks.

Cons:

High Cost: At \$729.95, it's one of the most expensive handhelds in the amateur radio market.

No Native APRS: Missing a feature that many users would expect. I really think this was ill advised.

Battery Life: Adequate but may require spares for prolonged use. At this price point, I would expect a

much longer use range.

But for operators who simply want high-end, this is probably the highest-end amateur radio HT to ever come from Icom. And for users who are already invested in D-STAR, the ID-52A Plus offers a lot of good features and performance—including the "Share Picture" function (which requires additional software). The color screen, dual-band receive, and excellent build quality make it a highly capable device—no question.

However, for those who primarily use analog FM or don't prioritize D-STAR, the steep price will most likely be a deal-killer unless you simply want the best that Icom offers right now.



The ID-52A Plus 60th Anniversary HT is a powerful, versatile radio, best suited for hams looking to invest in a premium, feature-rich handheld transceiver. In a couple reviews I read while writing this I saw it referred to as an "Ego Radio"—that seems fitting! Is it for beginners? Nah. There are zillions of choices for half this price. No need to start with this HT even if you have the cash.

But Icom says they're only going to sell 2400 of them and they only just recently went on sale. Who knows—they may sell out like hotcakes, and all this discussion is for naught.

Either way, that's the New Hot Thing for this issue.

-Dave W7UUU

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



MOST MEMBERS WHO VISIT THE CLUB are likely aware, we have a wonderful “living history” museum upstairs, opposite the HF Room. It’s called the Clifford J. “Doc” Spike, W7OS, Antique Radio Museum... or just The museum for short. Many of the artefacts are in full operating condition and get rotated into one of three operating positions.

What some members may not know is we recently received a motherlode of wonderful rigs from the past... brands like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, Heathkit, E.F. Johnson, and others.

Over the course of a few months, museum curator Dan KD7SV with help from Randy WB4SPB and others have made choice selections of some of these amazing rigs for permanent use in the museum.

Among the fabulous donations, most of the lesser rigs pale in comparison to the Hallicrafters HT-32B transmitter, SX-101A receiver, and the very rare HT-33A linear amplifier (photo above for the amp is from the internet—the club’s HT-33A was not available for photos the day I was there).

For those not familiar, these rigs were all introduced

in 1958 and 1959. They were among the highest-performing of Hallicrafters products, and were a highly sought-after lineup. Many hams (myself included) considered this setup to truly be a Dream

Rig, even into the 1970s. Of course, they only cover the 5 traditional bands, 80-10 meters with no WARC coverage. But the “thrill of use” quotient is very high!

Our collective hope is to see the full lineup of at least the transmitter and receiver, if not with the amp inline as well, in time for

Straight Key Night on New Year’s Eve (4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Clubhouse).



HT-33A Amplifier
photo: AARauctions

Also being discussed is having the

Hallicrafters station available for use by CW ops on any Saturday Open House day or Thursday evening “Radios Night”. For myself, I picture being able to operate SKCC on Saturday mornings, and have a headset available for a visitor to “listen in” on the QSOs. Next time you’re at the Clubhouse, come up to the museum to take a peek!

- Dave W7UUU

ANTENNA TIME

Multiband Cousins: G5RV & ZS6BKW

Dave W7UUU



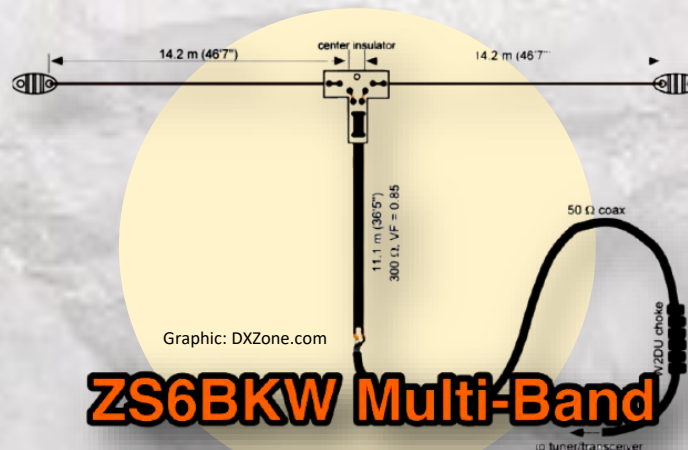
MANY NEW HF HAMS ARE TEMPTED TO START OUT with what is in fact a very popular antenna: the G5RV dipole. Designed without the aid of computers by Louis Varney in 1946 (call sign **G5RV**), it was intended to be a roughly 3dB gain antenna on the 20-meter band. The basic design is very simple: 102 feet total length with a center insulator feeding 34 feet of open line feeder (ladder line). When mounted high enough (40 feet or higher), the end of the ladder line will present roughly 50 Ohms on the 20m band. Any length of 50-Ohm coax fed to the shack then connects to the transceiver, with no tuner needed (for the band it was designed for: 20 meters).

Varney soon discovered that the design could also be “made to work” on other bands with an antenna tuner. A properly installed G5RV will present a modest SWR on the 80, 40, 20, and 12 meter bands, and can be “forced into working” on 15, 30 and 10 meter bands are not workable at all with this type of antenna. But the moral of the story: it was designed as, and performs best as, a 20-meter antenna and the other bands are just a mild bonus.

Jumping ahead to the 1980s, Dr. Brian Austin, **ZS6BKW** (also known as **G0GSF**), took this classic design and improved it using computer modeling that Varney could only have dreamed of having, resulting in the antenna that bears his call sign: the ZS6BKW.

The ZS6BKW antenna is also a center-fed dipole design, similar in concept to the G5RV, but with key differences in dimensions and matching. The total length of the dipole is about 93 feet, with each leg being 46.5 feet. It's fed with a 39-foot length of 450 -ohm ladder line or twin-lead, which acts as an impedance-matching section between the dipole and your 50-Ohm coax feed line.

The G5RV, as mentioned, was designed to provide a low SWR primarily on the 20-meter band, but its performance on other bands almost always requires the use of an antenna tuner. Dr. Austin engineered this idea by fine-tuning the lengths of both the dipole and the matching section, providing a better impedance match on multiple HF bands.



So why choose the ZS6BKW over a G5RV?

Unlike the G5RV, the ZS6BKW offers much improved performance across several HF bands *without requiring a tuner*.

The ZS6BKW's dimensions were carefully chosen using computer modeling to optimize impedance matching on key HF bands. The result is a lower SWR on some of the most popular HF bands: 40, 20, 17, 12, and 10 meters, *most often without any tuner required* (or just the basic limited internal auto-tuner of modern rigs like the IC-7300 and FTDX-10).

ANTENNA TIME

Multiband Cousins: G5RV & ZS6BKW

Dave W7UUU



For example, on 40 meters, where the G5RV typically struggles with high SWR, the ZS6BKW frequently shows much better matching characteristics, reducing losses and making it easier to use directly with a 50-ohm coax feed line.

Another benefit of the ZS6BKW is its reduced susceptibility to common-mode current issues. The inclusion of a well-sized ladder line matching section helps stabilize the impedance transformation process, while adding a choke balun at the coax feed point can *further* reduce RFI problems, leading to a cleaner signal.

Setting up a ZS6BKW is very straightforward. The antenna requires a minimum of about 93 feet of horizontal space, making it suitable for typical suburban yards with enough room to hang a dipole. The 39-foot ladder line should ideally hang *vertically* or at an angle that keeps its entire length perpendicular to the plane of the flat-top portion of the antenna. And of course, the ladder line can't be near metal surfaces (sheet metal rooftops, galvanized fences, etc.).

At the end of the ladder line, you connect your 50-ohm coaxial cable, which runs to your transceiver. Using high-quality coax like RG-213 or LMR-400 can help minimize losses, especially if you have a longer run from the antenna to your shack. The coax length can pretty much be as long as is needed. But never shorten the ladder-line section! That's a very important part of how the antenna functions.

When installed correctly, the ZS6BKW can be a decent option for portable use such as for a POTA activation. A 33' telescoping mast can serve as a center support,

and as long as the ladder line can be routed to stay reasonably perpendicular to the "vee" of the deployed antenna, it should still work quite well. And of course as a primary home antenna—the key being to get it as high and in the clear as possible (as with any antenna).

The simplicity of the wire dipole design, combined with the improved band coverage, makes it a versatile choice for a lot of hams world wide.

So is the ZS6BKW the right antenna for you?: If you're considering a new multiband *wire* antenna, the ZS6BKW offers several advantages over the classic G5RV. By optimizing the antenna's dimensions, it provides better SWR performance across multiple bands, reducing the need for a tuner and enhancing overall efficiency. For many hams, this means fewer trimming adjustments and fiddling with a tuner as you move around a band. As mentioned, the built-in tuners of most modern transceivers (typically set up for 3:1 or better SWR, worst case) can match a ZS6BKW on all the bands for which it's designed.

Some hams take on an "antenna snob" attitude and will sneer at anyone using a G5RV or even it's much-better descendent the ZS6BKW—but remember—any antenna that gets you on the air making contacts is *vastly* better than no antenna. If anyone asks you on the air what your antenna is, just say you have a dipole—because that's all the ZS6BKW or G5RV is—a dipole. Specialized perhaps, but a dipole nonetheless!

See you on the air....

-Dave W7UUU





Top Ten Most Wanted DX List

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

This list of the Top Ten “Most Wanted” DX entities comes to us from [ClubLog](#) and is derived from QSOs uploaded to their logging site. Some of these may not be activated again in many DXers remaining life-times! Especially the super “off limits” #1 on the list, DPRK or North Korea. And of course Scarborough Reef (BS7) that is just a “rock in the ocean” in the South China Sea... last activated in 2007 and may never be again. Here’s the current Top 10. ■ -editor

Sorry—no December ham fests to report... ‘Tis the time of year when they just stop happening!



The **BS7H** Scarborough Reef DXpedition (photo) took place between April 29 and May 6, 2007. A team of 17 operators from 7 countries worked in 8 hour shifts on the radios, before returning to an anchored vessel near the reef to rest. In all 45,820 QSOs were made. The reef is made of many rocks protruding above the sea. Several rocks were used - with make-shift platforms used for gear and operators. ■ -editor

1	North Korea (DPRK)
2	Scarborough Reef
3	San Felix Islands
4	Pratas Island
5	Kure Island
6	Johnston Island
7	Peter 1 Island
8	Kerguelen Island
9	Aves Island
10	Bouvet Island

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old Techs: Why Upgrade to General?

Dave W7UUU

SO YOU NOW HAVE YOUR TECHNICIAN CLASS license... congratulations—you've already taken a big step into the world of amateur radio! And it wasn't really all that hard I bet ... was it!

But there's a lot more to explore beyond the privileges of the Technician license. Upgrading to the General Class license opens up a whole new world of frequencies, communities, and opportunities to connect with people around the world. Moving up to General could be well worth your time.

First, let's talk about HF band

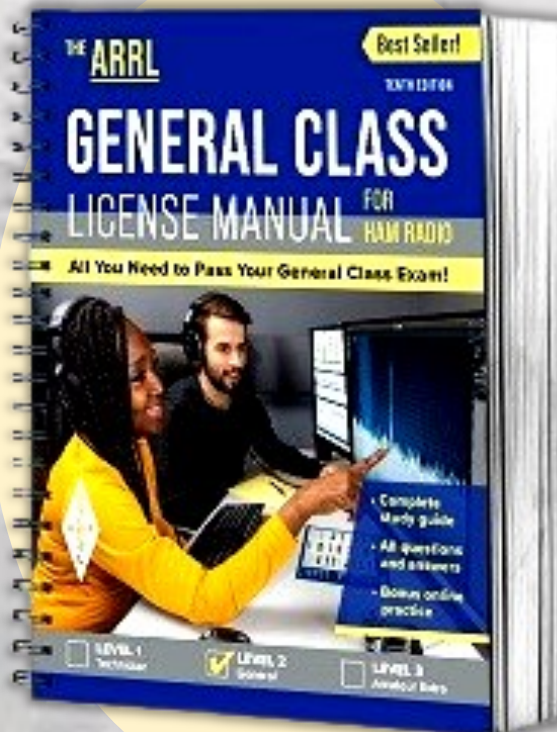
access. Right now, as a Technician, your HF privileges are fairly limited. You do have a section of the 10-meter band for SSB (28.300 to 28.500) and for FT8 (28.074), which can be exciting when conditions are right for reaching stations across the country and even internationally. And yes—absolutely conditions of late have been amazing on 10-meters!

However, it's only a small portion of what HF has to offer. As the sunspot cycle peaks then slowly fades, 10 will start to peter out to such a degree that the band will only open now and then—not daily like right now.

Interestingly, and you probably know this, you actually DO have privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters as a Technician. But only on CW. These CW privileges are great if you enjoy the challenge and simplicity of code, and you are willing to put in the time to learn it.

But for those who aren't into CW and just want the flexibility to operate SSB and FT8 outside of 10 meters, the General license is truly the next step.

And it's a REAL game-changer.



Click image to visit ARRL Bookstore

With a General Class license, you gain access to a wide range of HF bands, including major DX bands like 20, 17, and 12—all outstanding bands depending on propagation. 20 is considered the “best DX band” by many because it's almost always open to some region on the planet.

And of course, with your General you get SSB and FT8 privileges on ALL the bands—160, 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and all bands above those.

Getting your General is not as daunting as it seems. Your Tech exam only had 35 questions.... and the General is just the same. The

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

Jim AF5NP

test consists of 35 multiple-choice questions, and much of the material builds upon the knowledge you *already have* as a Technician. Sure there's more technical material—but it's really no more difficult to learn than it was to start from scratch and learn what you needed to get your Tech.

You'll find more electronics theory and a few additional FCC regulations, but with study guides and online practice exams, most Technicians find it manageable to prepare. The Radio Club of Tacoma offers General study classes, and there are many online resources specifically geared toward helping Technician operators upgrade to General.

The benefits go beyond just band privileges. With General, you'll find new ham communities within the hobby. Many nets and roundtables (organized on-air chat groups of hams) operate on HF bands that require General or Extra licenses. These might include regular check-ins for certain states or interest-based groups for everything from digital modes to QRP (low-power operating) and slow-scan television (SSTV). There are Swapmeet trading nets, boat anchor old gear nets, "Worked All States" nets, and many many more. This license upgrade brings you into a wider circle of fellow operators giving you a front-row seat to some of the most engaging aspects of amateur radio.

Contesting may also appeal to you. It's one of the big facets of ham radio that might well draw you in. Sure—you can participate on 10 meters SSB as a tech. But to truly appreciate the excitement of a

contest requires a General (or Extra) license so that you can operate on ALL the bands open to the contest.

And above all, upgrading to General can be a great boost to your skills and confidence as a ham radio operator. You'll learn more about radio theory, understand new aspects of how things work, and broaden your overall technical knowledge. The experience can be genuinely rewarding, and it will likely enhance your enjoyment of the hobby. You'll feel more connected—not just to other hams but to the broader world of amateur radio and the endless experiences that come with it.

So, if you've been thinking about an upgrade, consider diving in. The General license opens doors to new frequencies, friendships, and skills that make this unique hobby even more enjoyable and enriching.

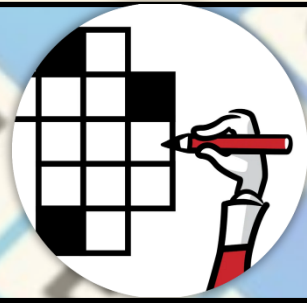
One closing tip—if you really want to go all-in, why not pick up the Extra study guide and learn that material as well? Yes, it's much more demanding, and 50 questions not 35. But most VE testing sessions allow you to take the Extra once you have passed your General, all in one sitting for the single fee! That's how our club does it—as do many others. It's something to consider—imagine walking in to sit for your General, and walk out the door at the end of the evening as a full-blown Extra Class ham!

Good luck to you either way.

-Dave W7UUU

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



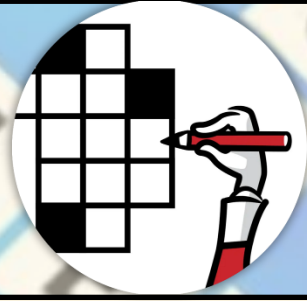
Radio Brands! Print this page to play!

X	Z	X	Q	Q	R	I	G	E	X	O	N	X	E	W	F	C	Z	H	N	W	A	N	S
G	J	Y	U	S	R	A	A	Z	S	K	G	Q	E	S	G	M	A	S	E	A	J	Y	Q
X	B	S	J	W	K	U	Q	L	M	V	K	T	O	P	S	M	C	R	O	T	L	E	N
E	W	N	X	E	L	X	D	D	A	V	J	Y	W	N	M	C	O	T	K	G	P	L	Y
B	U	Z	M	J	K	L	T	P	P	F	X	G	I	A	K	C	T	I	W	H	K	S	I
C	Z	B	F	A	V	T	A	U	W	I	Q	L	R	Z	E	I	N	R	M	K	D	O	C
B	Z	Y	J	Z	N	N	F	K	M	R	L	L	F	M	A	K	L	E	N	O	B	M	B
O	N	O	R	D	T	Z	E	U	W	O	U	Z	A	O	C	C	K	I	T	O	O	Z	Z
K	Z	S	K	S	I	P	T	O	C	N	Y	K	J	C	F	F	G	B	V	C	H	U	O
G	Z	O	N	R	Y	H	T	E	D	R	A	S	J	I	K	H	R	J	I	T	V	I	Z
S	M	L	V	E	N	D	E	Z	M	X	D	G	Q	E	T	G	I	D	L	S	E	R	S
J	O	E	A	T	O	N	Y	C	J	J	W	Z	G	R	C	D	L	E	L	P	W	A	S
M	B	G	E	F	B	L	A	Z	L	P	U	K	M	M	H	E	A	O	Z	O	C	A	N
N	V	W	E	A	B	S	F	A	U	N	U	O	Q	V	R	L	W	U	Y	I	K	N	N
D	W	M	X	R	I	F	A	T	X	V	F	A	E	H	Q	E	J	F	P	H	U	P	T
L	T	I	N	C	G	B	L	R	S	K	I	F	A	Y	E	T	H	P	Z	O	B	E	G
E	E	I	Z	I	E	K	A	R	D	T	I	K	H	T	A	E	H	P	N	P	M	I	O
Q	C	T	X	L	X	T	B	P	Z	K	U	G	Q	N	F	Z	R	M	U	P	D	U	Y
M	T	L	S	L	Z	R	E	E	O	T	Q	L	J	O	I	X	R	A	O	Q	R	L	Q
N	L	L	G	A	E	X	M	C	Q	X	R	K	K	Z	P	H	M	G	G	E	L	C	R
M	W	T	J	H	Y	E	O	A	Z	I	D	B	L	K	O	B	O	F	P	V	L	D	B
Z	Q	U	G	N	T	I	Q	M	O	Q	L	D	M	X	P	B	P	V	Q	E	V	Q	Y
A	F	H	Y	L	T	N	H	L	G	N	Q	Q	O	C	Z	B	M	E	U	P	K	E	F
X	N	O	S	N	H	O	J	E	D	A	K	M	H	D	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	B

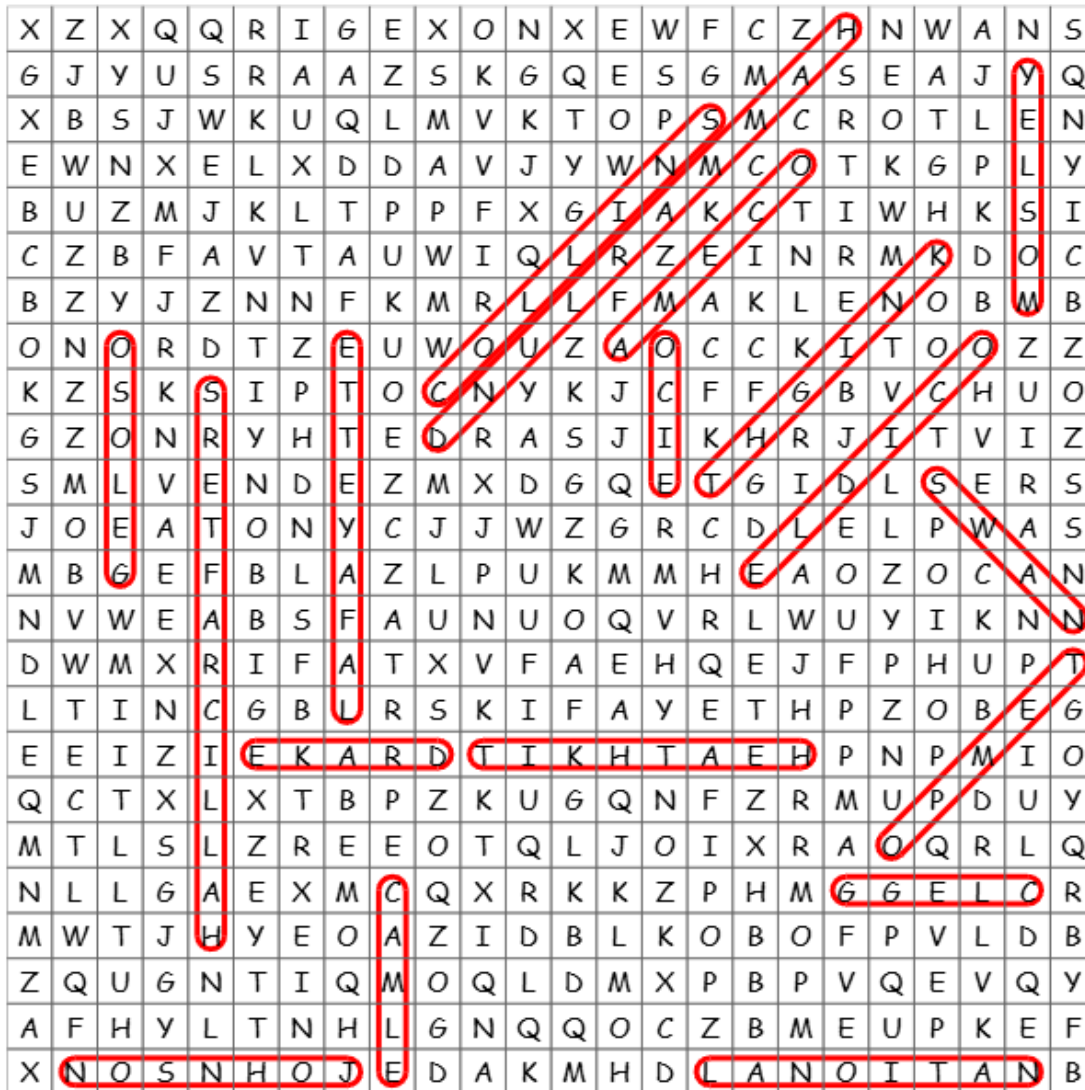
National Swan Collins Lafayette Hallicrafters Hammarlund
 Eico Johnson Knight Drake Geloso Heathkit Mosley
 Ameco Tempo Clegg Eldico Elmac

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Answer Key... but don't cheat!



National
Hallicrafters
Knight
Mosley
Eldico

Swan
Hammarlund
Drake
Ameco
Elmac

Collins
Eico
Geloso
Tempo

Lafayette
Johnson
Heathkit
Clegg



CLOSING REMARKS



W7DK

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

EMAILING OFFICERS

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

The Loggers Bark **does not** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- [Full-time students](#), licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime [membership](#) is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime [memberships](#) are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CLICK HERE!

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

loggersbark@W7DK.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 2nd, 2024

Meeting called to order at _____ 1900 _____.

Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

Quorum? 5 of 9 Directors needed ☐ Y ☐

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed: Mike asked for approval of minutes. No objections, minutes approved.

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve Dightman AF7YD is in a care facility. Hopefully, he will return to us soon.
Al Burleson K7HW in the same care facility.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Usual stuff, bank statements, Salmon Run pledge forms and QSL cards from Salmon Run.

Secretary requests that committee chairs start considering submitting a 2025 budget for consideration. The budgets will be approved in March, but it is time to at least start thinking about this.

Treasurer's Report (Steve AF7YD)

No report from Steve AF7YD. In the interim Doug Schafer is paying the bills and taking care of business for the club.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

He provided this report of club finances, all from US Bank:

Checking... 2245 from PayPal:	\$1,909
Checking... 6637 Primary:	\$ 19,345
Savings... Money market:	\$ 74,996
Savings ... Regular Savings	\$ 500

Committee Reports

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

New house numbers on the front of the house. Adam has many improvements coming up. We also have some nice plaques for the bathrooms that were donated by a ham a while ago.

We also had acquired some rest room plaques to go on the doors that had been donated some time ago. These were a gift to the club from an older member. (name & callsign added later)

Some discussion occurred over the roll up door alarming and re-building the door to make it stronger to help resist any future attempts to rob our vast collection of boat anchors...

General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

A program on DMR operations is in process for October. November's program will be on Flex radios.

HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

No report. Proposed HF committee budget attached.

Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal.

Library (Doug AD7AV)

AI N7OMS reports that there has been some work on the library kiosk. Also discussed the physical library which is about as big as it can get. There are some banker boxes on the free table with many good books it there that the library is letting to go to the members.

Budget Attached.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Membership (Mike W7XH)

Mike W7XH talked about various activities in the membership committee: certificates, Birthday cards and outreach to new licensees. Costs have gone up a bit; see the below budget. Membership is at 347. There is an article about one of our newest members, Fred Freer in this month's Loggers Bark. Kudos to club members welcoming new folks / visitors to the club.

Budget Attached.

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Mike, W7XTZ reports that visitors to the museum have increased. Dan KD7SV reported that he was out chasing fish in Montana last month.

SX-101 and HT-32 are in the museum and operational.

Randy and Dan will be doing triage on the equipment in the museum to cut down the clutter and they will decide the equipment that will be sent to Red for disposal.

Dave W7UUU has the BC-348 in his station for the classic exchange. Dan wants him to work some DX with this old piece of equipment.

Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

Manny gave the board an Executive summary of the committee report below. Please be sure to read the report and the BOD will discuss this in the following months.

Committee report attached.

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Red, WB7EC submitted the following PM report:

PMT took \$646 in sales last month. (September) The list below is equipment that is ready to be sold. Red made a motion to approve the sales list: Mike W7XTZ seconded. Motion carried.

Adam has a "Wall of Classics" to get them out of the garage... Dan was asked about the Drake L4-B amps. He stated that one is ready for sale and the other is in process...

Adam, W2NCC discussed the ongoing process to get the "Wall of Classics" in the Garage. Dave W7UUU is assisting Adam with pictures and entering the collected boat anchors into the QRZ.com swap meet.

OCTOBER 2024

Property Management team request permission to dispose/recycle the following excess items from Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| 1. RCT 4378 | Kenwood HF XCVR TS-520S | SN: 641300 |
| 2. RCT 4379 | Henry HF XCVR Tempo 1/Power Supply | SN: 344080 |
| 3. RCT 4380 | Astron Switching power supply SS-25 | SN: 207020051 |
| 4. RCT 4381 | Oak Hills Research QRP wattmeter WM-2 | |
| 5. RCT 4382 | QRPworks SideKar Extreme | |
| 6. RCT 4383 | Yaesu Antenna Rotor/ Controller G 450A | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

7. RCT 4384 Comet Antenna CBL 250

8. RCT 4385 Vibroplex Vibrocube

SN: 401998

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

Al has the following report for the committee Al talked to WWARA about the impending a possible move-ment to narrow band FM that the WWARA is considering. Discussions continue whether this is a thing that would happen in Western Washington. The below committee report includes equipment that may / could be acquired and used for this proposal. (Narrow Band). This narrow band effort should occur by 2030. The pro-posed budget below covers new equipment that would be needed for this project.

Repeater budget attached.

Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Stephan reports that this weekend's Tech class is canceled due to folks canceling.

October 5th and 6th, followed with a General class. Started Monday September 23rd. Reports from Stephan indicate that the General class is going well...

Tower (Nick K7MO)

Adam reports the tower cabling and entrance panel is going to be started soon. This going to be an extended project and at the end things should be working much better in how wires and cables are addressed both in and out of the building.

Treasurer (Doug AB7DG: Assistant Treasurer filling in temporarily)

Discuss relocating RCT equipment now stored at AF7YD's home (e.g., generator, antennas, etc.)

Mike W7MKE will be coordinating arrangements to pick up all that stuff. He is trying to get all that before the 19th of October.

Recruiting a new treasurer is still in process...

VE (John AC7WW)

Tuesday, September 10th your VE Team had an Amateur Exam session at the clubhouse. Eleven candidates attended, seven joined the Amateur Service as Technicians. One advanced to General. Three candidates failed to earn an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Manny, AD7MA, Rich, KK7VH, Rob, K7TGU, Stephen, AD7AB, Phil, K7PIA, Whit, KG7LNZ



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

The next scheduled test session is scheduled for October 8th

Friday, September 13th your VE Team traveled South to JBLM. We graded 22 elements

With 10 being passed. Ten new Technicians joined the Amateur Service. One candidate failed to obtain an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Stephen, AD7AB, Whit, KG7LNZ.

Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

Learn to solder event. Adam W2NCC and Paul Nosal K7OSS will be doing this at the clubhouse.

Unfinished Business:

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

I brought this up a couple of months ago and want to revisit it @ the October BOD meeting. Stickers to give out for Logger's Bark "prizes" instead of QRZ stickers. Also, can give to new members or old (perhaps for minimal cost?).

makestickers.com \$86 for 250 3" x 2" size

Mike asked if the club wanted to do this, but not much response.

New Business?

Adam W2NCC has this for our consideration: Please add the Repeater Roundabout as a New Business topic for the October board meeting.

Details here: The [Repeater Roundabout](#) is back this year, on November 23rd and 24th !

Last year, W7DK repeaters participated in the second Repeater Roundabout. We made it into last [July's edition of QST Magazine](#), and more importantly, made a ton of noise on the airwaves, with hundreds of participants and thousands of contacts across over 120 repeaters from 54 amateur radio clubs in the Puget Sound area. This year, we're hoping to go even bigger.

What's the Repeater Roundabout ?

- The RR is a fun and friendly contest over FM repeaters, taking place in the last full weekend of November. It's great for both hams new to contesting, and for experienced operators.
- The goal is for hams to make as many contacts as possible with new people, on new machines, in order to introduce them to their local repeaters and clubs. The Repeater Roundabout brought a lot of attention to repeaters all over the area.
- We provide files to program your radios, a list and a map of all participating repeaters, a Discord chat for



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

live skeds and help, and an automatic scoring system. Everything is on the [Repeater Roundabout](#) website.

What happens now ?

- Let me know if your radio group is interested in participating this year ! **Please reply to this email to let me know.**
- Join our [Discord server](#) for live conversation. Club representatives have a special channel too.

Thanks, and 73,
Quentin K7DRQ

Thanks,
Adam W2NCC

Becky KG7FZH has this for our consideration:

I'm replying on behalf of and in coordination with Sam, N9MII. The New Business discussion points are regarding the proposal to hold CQNW Radio Weekend 2025 in the same spirit as 2024.

Purpose: Introduction to ham radio technician license knowledge for youth in the format of a weekend-long retreat at the RCT Clubhouse and other locations in Tacoma

Proposed dates: Friday evening Jan 17 through Monday afternoon Jan 20

Proposed clubhouse use: duration of the event, excepting Saturday during open house approximately 9am-3pm

Of note:

The CQNW Board of Directors has approved proceeding with Radio Weekend in the same spirit as the 2024 event, with CQNW responsible for instructional and programmatic execution as well as the bulk of financial outlay

There is much excitement after Radio Weekend 2024 and July & August camp sessions!

Mode of instruction is already being refined and further iterated given 2024 reflection and analysis

Becky intends to apply for ARRL assistance toward supplies (e.g. books for participants)

Instructors will be more varied to include new hams within the CQNW network, including youth and adult participants from 2024 who successfully earned their technician licenses

We are seeking approval and support from the RCT Board, and any newly approved Education & Training Committee should the latter's formation be established at the point of discussion of New Business during the October 2024 board meeting.

Becky KG7FZH and Sam N9MII presented the above documentation and made the request to have RCT to provide training manuals if they can't get ARRL funding. This will be 15 youngsters and associated trainers / counselors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Mike W7MKE made a motion to authorize a budget to provide 15 manuals and 15 VE sets of exam fees. This would be in the \$750 and allow campers to use our facilities during the CQNW weekend event. Excess over manuals and VE fees could be used to purchase handheld radios for the campers.

Adjournment at: _____ 2042 _____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance sheets, Budget proposals for HF, Library, Repeater and Membership committees. Also a planning committee report.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
Board of Directors Meeting
October 2nd, 2024

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Clubhouse	Only non BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	David Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
2	Mike Isakson	W7XH	2657
3	Manny Adonis	AD7MA	3028
4	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
5	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	2561
2	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
3	Stephen Morton	AD7AB	2127
4	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
5	Dave Ashley	W7GEL	2987
6	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

BUDGETS

Membership Committee
Mike Isakson Chairman,

This plan and proposal are for the Radio Club of Tacoma Calendar Year

2025

Program/Activity Title: Membership Committee

Manager/Chairman: Mike Isakson

Program members and volunteers: (Potential, or actual)

George Salisbury

Please describe in detail your goals and plan for your program during this RCT year?

Goal: Identification and encouragement of new member activities related to amateur radio.

Goal: Provide record keeping and renewal notice mailings.

Goal: Help elections committee with ballot mailings.

Goal: Provide ongoing membership information to the board and general membership.

Action Items: Include dates, events, participants.

Item: Membership fees, meeting with the board in June to receive the boards recommended fees for the preceding year.

Item: Update the membership form and membership database to reflect the dues changes implemented by the board.

Item: Print Salmon Run pledge forms and mail prior to September 7th. Track Salmon Run participation, incoming funds, provide email receipts/invoices and email Salmon Run results to donors.

Item: Print annual renewal notices and Election ballots, mailing envelopes and return renewal and elections envelopes. Mailing to be completed 4 days after receiving ballot by election committee. Ballot must be a single sheet of paper

Program scheduling:

Is your activity a

Yearlong?

One time event? Date _____

Over a period of time? (Specify: _____)

What are your planned/expected resource requirements?

Materials: (List items and cost estimates) :

Postage, envelopes, document mailers, paper, certificates, postcards, labels, ink/toner

Equipment: None

Personnel/Skills:

Financial: (Budget items and estimated/proposed costs)

1000 # 9 envelopes

Est. Cost \$ ***

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

500 # 10 envelopes	Est. Cost \$ ***
3000 sheets #20 lb 92 bright paper	Est. Cost \$ ***
1500 stamps current price \$0.73	Est. Cost \$ ***
1200 stamps for postcards current price \$0.56	Est. Cost \$ ***
100 9x12 Membership Certificate document mailer	Est. Cost \$ ***
100 Membership certificates	Est. Cost \$ ***
Address Labels 1x2.65	Est. Cost \$ ***
100 laminating sheets for membership cards	Est. Cost \$ ***
HP Color LaserJet Pro MFP M281cdw cartridge	Est. Cost \$ ***
Brother laser toner TN-760	Est. Cost \$ ***
Email Campaign to 2500 subscribers annually	Est. Cost \$ ***
Tax	Est. Cost \$ ***

Proposed/requested Budget: -Two thousand Six Hundred and eight-seven dollars even-

Total \$ ***

How does this plan satisfy the Radio Club of Tacoma's Mission Statement and Goals?

It provides for member renewals, member recognition and outreach to increase membership.

Additional information or comments:

Membership does not expect any fundraising income. We are working toward greater retention of members and conversion of promotional members. An increase in club income will happen if we meet those goals. With recent changes in the status of our club newsletter The Loggers Bark and a modification in our associate membership, we have seen an increase in out of state membership.

Over the last several years, membership has handled the Salmon Run fundraiser. Handling all financial transactions, pledge forms, billing, letters of appreciation, advertising and recognition of both participants and donors. Including printing pledges, return envelope, mailing envelopes and postage.

Membership has also provided printing of club ballots and ballot return envelopes and the cost of postage. We have also printed several thousand postcards for both member birthdays as well as invitations to new hams.

This year we also re-instituted membership certificates. Purchasing certificate paper, document mailers, address labels, postage and printing expenses. Membership has printed 346 certificates to date.

Submitted by: Mike Isakson

Date: October 2, 2024

Board Action: _____ Date: _____

Budget Action: _____ Date: _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Proposed Activity Action Plan Repeater committee.

This plan and proposal are for the Radio Club of Tacoma Calendar Year 2025

Program/Activity Title: Repeaters

Manager/Chairman: Al N7OMS

Program members and volunteers: (Potential, or actual)

Bob AD7LJ Sam N9MII Nick K7MO

Please describe, in detail your goals and plan for your program during this RCT year?

Goal: Meet the deadline of WWARA 2030 to move all the club's repeaters to narrowband FM

Action Items: Include dates, events, participants

Item: Replace Club House 28 machine with new Repeater and Amp

Item: Used MRT2000 UHF to replace Club House 440 machine

Item: Upgrade Crawford GE Master II to narrow band. Possibly the replaced 28 machine to be as hot spares for Crawford site.

Item: Add controller at Bates Site and convert existing MTR 2000 to narrow band Possibly obtain another MTR 2000 as spares for Bates or Club House 440.

Program scheduling:

Is your activity:

Over a period? (Specify: 2025-2030)

What are your planned/expected resource requirements?

Materials:

Used items as they become available Two MTR 2000 UHF and VHF \$***

Software and upgrade parts for narrow band, \$500

Equipment: New Club house repeater: Icom, or Yaesu \$1900 100-watt Amp \$ ***

Personnel/Skills: In House

Financial: Where appropriate, relate your anticipated resource requirements to the goals and action items listed in the first part of this plan.

Proposed/requested Budget: To begin 5 years process: Total \$ ***

How does this plan satisfy the Radio Club of Tacoma's Mission Statement and Goals?

Additional information or comments: (Please include here any expected income, donations or other fund-raising income expected from this program)

We only learned of the Narrow band plan at the last WWARA meeting which was last Saturday. This budget would allow us to start work towards the overall 5-year goal. Plans can change as we move forward, and Clubs goals may change in future.

Possible project funding idea's will be developed with the help of committee members and the Grant writing group.

Submitted by: Alan Ferguson N7OMS Date:10/02/2024

Proposed Activity Action Plan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

HF committee.

This plan and proposal are for the Radio Club of Tacoma Calendar Year 2025

Program/Activity Title: HF Committee

Manager/Chairman: Phil Pia K7PIA

Program members and volunteers: (Potential, or actual)

Gary McAdams WG7X

Al Ferguson N70ms

Bob Purdom AD7LJ

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Doug Schafer AB7DG

Sam Mulvey N9MII

Dan Vacanti KD7SV

Please describe in detail your goals and plan for your program during this RCT year?

(use additional sheets if required)

Goal: Continue to update and modernize HF stations equipment to make systems easier and safer to operate. We need to repair the Flex 6400M given to us by PJ N7PH (SK) which had a bad receive channel. Additional work on bonding and grounding both the towers and the HF stations is needed.

HF committee members will assist.

Action Items: Include dates, events, participants.

This is a yearlong event for both the committee members and club members at large who will donate time and effort to do upgrades.

Program scheduling:

Is your activity a

Yearlong? **YES**

What are your planned/expected resource requirements?

Materials: Connectors for grounding and bonding acquired as needed.

Equipment: Various cable connectors, grounding connectors, heavy wire cable, copper braid and miscellaneous hardware. \$ ***

Item: Repair 6400M est. \$ *** (includes shipping costs)

\$ ***Total Requested for 2025

Personnel/Skills: HF committee and all able-bodied club member volunteers.

Financial: Item/s Listed above in Equipment section Est. Cost: \$***

Proposed/requested Budget 2025 **Total** \$ ***

How does this plan satisfy the Radio Club of Tacoma's Mission Statement and Goals?

As a part of our mission, we do training, operating and revenue generating using state of the art amateur radio equipment, materials and training. We, as a club, have **NOT** been keeping up with current levels of Amateur radio technology, especially in the properly grounding and bonding the towers and the operating stations according to current codes and established engineering standards. This budget attempts to supply needed materials to accomplish this in 2025.

In addition, the Flex 6400M is a great radio but was received in less than full operating capability. We can neither use it nor sell it for its actual value without getting it repaired. \$*** for a fully capable Flex 6400M is a great bargain. We need to fix this radio so we can use it or sell it.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Additional information or comments:

As one of the oldest continuously operating radio clubs in America, it behooves us to set examples of both operating skills, good radio equipment and good engineering practices. The HF committee is working to accomplish these goals, and it comes at a cost and our members have been generous and expect us to spend wisely and for the future of the hobby.

As previously stated, the Radio Club of Tacoma uses our HF stations to showcase our ability to operate using state-of-the-art equipment. We have already done this with the two major radios in use, the newer Flex and Icom radios.

When we have classes and visitors, we always show them our Amateur radio stations. We have a museum for the older equipment and the HF stations should be modern, safer to use and repair and have sufficient output to replace the old dinosaurs that we now have.

Submitted by: HF Committee Date: _____

Board Action: Voted to approve HF budget for 2025 Date: _____ Budget Action: _____ Date: _____

Proposed Activity Action Plan Library Committee

This plan and proposal are for the Radio Club of Tacoma Calendar Year 2025

Program/Activity Title: Doug DeMaw, Douglas E. Oakman Libraries

Manager/Chairman: Douglas E. Oakman, AD7AV / Chief Librarian

Program members and volunteers: (Potential, or actual)

Douglas E. Oakman AD7AV

Randy Myers WB4SPB

Adam Barbera W2NCC

George Salisbury K7GRS

Al Ferguson N7OMS

Sue Schub KF7SOW

Please describe in detail your goals and plan for your program during this RCT year?

Goal: Radio Club of Tacoma Library Purpose Statement (February 2008) — The W7DK library exists to preserve the history of the club and of amateur radio as well as to provide useful technical information to members.

Goal: General Library Policy — Reference (Douglas E. Oakman) library items do not circulate, except those in a specially designated circulating collection (Doug DeMaw Library). Items donated to the library are, by decision of the library committee, kept in the collection, sold at Hamfest or on eBay, or put on the Saturday free tables. Donated items in any case benefit the club in general.

Goal: A top priority remains to finish computerized cataloging tools to track check-outs from DeMaw; a Kiosk is under construction to aid with this; efficient management of shelf space is needed

Goal: A video screen is ready for the NW corner of the classroom to display items of historical interest to the club

Goal: New or donated books/materials will be processed

Goal: A thorough inventory of all holdings in the Oakman Research Library is needed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Goal: Discussions remain for best use of the remaining Centennial Fund earmarked for the library & history areas

Action Items: Include dates, events, participants

Item: Our committee works collaboratively throughout the year to add new materials, conduct shelf checks, and the like

Item: Over the last year, we have added digital items of interest to club members (on club server) to display on the classroom screen, which is ready to be installed

Item: Over 2024, 56 books were added to DeMaw & 10 to Oakman; fewer new books were added because so many quality donations came in from estates. These take a lot of time to triage & if accepted to catalog. We are getting to a time where shelf space management will become essential. Committee meetings will determine how this can be done in the club's best interests.

Program scheduling:

Is your activity a
Yearlong?

What are your planned/expected resource requirements?

Materials: Library labels, pockets, cards for pockets, stamps & pads periodically obtained (some of this donated); subscriptions for Electric Radio, RadCom magazine

Equipment: None

Personnel/Skills: Doug AD7AV - cataloging, Randy WB4SPB - digital materials & website, George K7GRS - computer programming, Kiosk

Financial: (Budget items and estimated/proposed costs)

Actually, spent for new books & subscriptions

Est. Cost \$ ***

George has not yet been reimbursed for Kiosk materials or history screen, this itemization and cost will carry over to 2025

Est. Cost \$ ***

Where appropriate, relate your anticipated resource requirements to the goals and action items listed in the first part of this plan.

Proposed/requested Budget Requested for 2025 _____ **Total \$ *****

How does this plan satisfy the Radio Club of Tacoma's Mission Statement and Goals?

The libraries are mandated by the bylaws, see purpose statement above

Additional information or comments: Unanticipated personal developments for two committee members slowed progress on DeMaw & classroom projects - consequently 2024 budget was not expended as anticipated (and is requested again)

Submitted by: _Doug AD7AV / Chief Librarian

Date: October 6, 2024

Board Action: _____ Date: _____

Planning Committee Report to the Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors

Synopsis: The following report provides a comprehensive background on the establishment of the Planning Committee and its designated purpose within our organization. This report also details the committee's preliminary research, review, and analysis, as well as its strategic recommendations to address our rapidly aging

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

membership base and adapt to the evolving digital technology landscape.

The Planning Committee was formed to address the critical need to attract younger amateur radio operators and foster growth in our membership. The committee's purpose is to develop and implement innovative strategies that will not only help us adapt to the changing technological landscape but also ensure the long-term sustainability and vitality of our organization.

BACKGROUND

In the October 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the Membership Committee Chair, Mike Isakson W7XH, presented a 10-year membership trend analysis report. In this report, Mike highlighted key metrics regarding the organization's enrollment and attrition rates, as well as the average member age across various categories.

Here are the key findings from the report:

As of October 2023, there are 318 active members.

Seven members (2.20%) are aged twenty and below.

Twenty members (6.29%) are aged thirty and below.

Fifty members (15.72%) are aged fifty and below.

110 members (34.59%) are between the ages of 51-70.

158 members (49.69%) are aged seventy-one and above.

The report also raised concerns about membership retention. Between 2013 and 2023, the organization welcomed 495 new members. However, only 152 (30.71%) of these members remain active. Furthermore, 52% of the current 318 members have been with the organization since before 2013.

Mike's report underscored the aging membership trend and the challenge in attracting and retaining younger members. In response, Mike recommended to the Club President, Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ, that an Ad-Hoc Committee, the Planning Committee, be established to investigate, review, and analyze strategies to attract younger members and increase overall membership. This committee will make recommendations to the Board to address the organization's aging population.

The Club Secretary, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE called for a motion to create the Planning Committee with Manny Adonis AD7MA as the chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed without objections.

PRELIMINARY WORK AND AGENDA SETTING

The committee initiated preliminary deliberations to ascertain the five most pressing issues impeding the



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

club's efforts to attract and retain new members. Following a series of virtual meetings among committee members and having solicited the suggestions and opinions of club members during Saturday open houses and other club activities, we were able to pinpoint the following specific areas of focus.

On Attracting Younger Members

- Highlight the diverse aspects of ham radio, such as public service, DXing, off-grid operations, computer-assisted digital modes, and hands-on experimentation.

- Emphasize that ham radio is not limited to traditional stereotypes and has untapped potential to engage the younger generation.

- Present a compelling case for ham radio by showing the relevance, utility, and excitement it offers in comparison to popular social media platforms and apps.

Engagement Strategies

- Develop programs focused on informative and engaging meetings to attract and retain new members.

- Invite individuals with specific skills to conduct presentations, appealing to both new and existing members.

- Prioritize the youth demographic with the establishment of a dedicated youth coordinator, along with initiatives such as "Bark Junior" and "Youth Net" to engage with and attract young members.

Promotional Activities

- Implement initiatives to make ham radio more fun, interesting, and entertaining without overwhelming new members with technical details.

- Embrace various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to expand the club's outreach and visibility.

- Participate in local events, festivals, and community activities to highlight the club's activities to a broader audience.

Membership Feedback and Engagement

- Conduct a comprehensive survey to gather insights from club members regarding the future direction of the club.

- Inquire about members' experiences, expectations, and suggestions for improving the club's offerings.

- Utilize the feedback to organize engaging activities, such as field day events, booths, fairs and intensify the club's social media presence.

Promotion and Incentives



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Offer incentives such as free entry level HT radios preloaded with the club's repeater, targeting new techs aged sixteen and below to encourage their participation and membership.

Use mass surveys and renewal documents to gauge member satisfaction and gather suggestions for club improvement.

The committee held its first in person meeting on September 1, 2024, and after deliberations, agreed that our first order of business was to address the Clubs Training and Education efforts.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Our preliminary analysis has revealed that our club's offerings are limited in scope regarding classes for new hams. While we do provide instruction for passing the Technician class license exam, our offerings for beginners conclude there. We do offer classes for the General class license and Amateur Extra class license exams, but the initial stages of learning for new hams could be better served.

Clubhouse Activities

Our Clubhouse offerings currently lack activities tailored to our younger members, whom we define as individuals aged forty and below.

The Saturday Open House, typically bustling with members, primarily serves as a platform for social interaction and catch-ups among our members.

The HF Room, often filled with members and guests, both local and visiting, is primarily utilized for generic discussions.

The Lou Room, another active area, is frequently occupied by Stephen Morton, AD7AB, the Club's appointed Education Coordinator. Mr. Morton is always available to assist both hams and non-hams with any queries regarding the use of a handheld 2-meter radio and is more than happy to program any HT radio brought in to load it with local area repeaters.

The Club's Fourth Wednesday Activity Night (4WAN), previously deemed successful, with past programs such as "Field Day Search and Pounce", "Numbers Station", and "Propagation under a more active sun", has experienced a notable decline in engagement, with recent cycles only promoting a "show and tell" program.

Other Club Activities Worth Noting

In the first quarter of 2024, the Club, in accordance with its strategic objectives, hosted an event designated as Camp Quest Northwest (CQNW). The program, saw the Club extend a warm welcome to a group of



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

young prospective ham radio operators. The Clubhouse facility was made available for their use over a weekend, during which a series of comprehensive classes were conducted. These classes were not merely educational in nature, but also aimed at assisting these young operators in successfully achieving their Technician class license. The Clubs Board, demonstrating its commitment to the event's success, provided financial assistance. Several senior Club members, exemplifying the spirit of camaraderie, offered their support during the event. Dave Ellison, W7UUU, the Club's Loggers Bark editor and the current QRZ.com Forums Director, in a gesture of goodwill, provided dual frequency handheld radios on behalf of QRZ.com. This was a one-time incentive extended to CQNW event participants ages seventeen and under who had successfully completed the event and subsequently passed the Technician Class licensing exam. The HF Group has initiated a program called "Thursday Night HF". This program presents an excellent opportunity for members to receive direct training on the operation of the radios. It was created in response to requests from members seeking written instructions and manuals for all radios, with the aim of providing a more accessible learning experience.

Club Vice-President Adam Barbera, W2NCC, has launched an electronics skills training program. The first course offered was a class on basic soldering. This initial class served as the impetus for the development of a series of courses that is currently in the planning stages for the 2025 calendar. These sessions are tentatively scheduled to utilize the Fourth Wednesday Activity Night (4WAN) time slot.

TRAINING DEFINED

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Articles of Incorporation, specifically "Article Two – Purpose," states:

"This Corporation has been formed for the following purposes:

This organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the internal revenue code to:

Provide technical training of its members in radio communications theory and radio operating procedures,

Provide current information to its members about scientific advances and improved techniques in the radio communications field,

Organize and train a pool of licensed amateur radio operators capable and experienced in maintaining radio communications during periods of public emergencies and disasters,

Sponsor and encourage experimental activities in radio equipment construction and repair, radio operating systems, and communications techniques. The advancement of the skills and experience gained will further improve the capability of its members to provide public service communications,

Promote the highest standards of practice and ethics in the conduct of amateur radio communications."

A review of the Clubs Bylaws revised 6/15/2022 under Section Seven – Committees and Appointees, Subsection (C) – Appointees, states that the President shall appoint an "Education Coordinator."

And in Section Eight – Club Services of the Clubs Bylaws, under Subsection (A) (3) – Training Classes states:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

(3) Training Classes – The club shall conduct, sponsor, or promote classes in preparation for amateur radio examinations, including but not limited to, Morse code training, electronics theory, communications law, current operating practices and techniques, and any other subjects which may advance the amateur radio service.

The review of the Clubs Standing Rules adopted 1/3/2024 describes Education under the RCT Policies section, Subsection 1.

“The Education Coordinator shall solicit qualified instructors and recommend methods of publicizing available educational programs to the public. The Coordinator will keep the Board apprised of their progress and activities each month at the regular Board Meetings.”

COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Club currently lacks a committee dedicated to overseeing its training activities, despite the centrality of training and education to The Radio Club of Tacoma’s mission. It is therefore crucial that we establish a Training and Education Committee to support our members' skill development and growth within their hobby.

This Planning Committee is of the firm belief that to cultivate a supportive learning environment, the Club must enhance its provision for learning opportunities. The recommendations delineated below constitute the initial phase of a potentially successful training program, designed to serve the needs of both current and future members of the club.

Create a Training and Education Committee

Stephen Morton AD7AB the Club’s current Education Coordinator has graciously agreed to Chair the Training and Education Committee.

The Committee shall oversee preparation, promotion, and execution of all classes and training conducted at the Clubhouse to include those classes the Club currently offers for the Technician Class license, as well as classes offered for the General license and Extra Class license courses.

The Committee shall initiate a program designed to promote classes to our club members and the wider public at large.

The Training and Education Committee Chair shall do the following:

Create a Training and Education Committee Mission Statement

Solicit committee membership with the number set at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

Shall generate an estimated annualized budget proposal for expenses incurred while conducting business in pursuit of the stated objectives of the newly established Training Committee. This budget



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

shall be submitted to the Club Secretary on an annual basis when due.

Create a pool of qualified trainers using a list of yet to be determined guidelines for qualifications.

Pursue the development of an exhaustive training program, meticulously crafted to deliver educational classes in both remote and classroom settings. This program should be designed to maintain its functionality and effectiveness throughout the entire calendar year.

The Board shall direct each respective Committee Chair to engage in regular dialogue and active collaboration with the Training and Education Committee. Any proposed or planned training activities, which are to be conducted by club members or members of other Club Committees, should be communicated to the Training and Education Committee in a timely, efficient, and prompt manner. This process, which is designed to foster constructive collaboration and unity within our organization, enables the new Training and Education Committee to promote any such activities properly, effectively, and comprehensively to the club members and the public at large on behalf of other Committees. This proactive approach ensures that all members of our organization are well-informed and engaged in the various training activities that are being conducted, thereby enhancing the overall learning and development experience for all involved.

The Clubs Vice-President, Adam Barbera W2NCC, has meticulously planned a Basic Soldering Class, slated for October 2024. This inaugural session marks the commencement of a progressively advanced program, designed to cultivate and enhance the skills of new hams.

The Planning Committee has compiled a list of possible, but to be determined classes, designed to last through 2025 with proper planning.

Balun concepts class, Balun building lab

Wire antenna concepts class, Wire antenna lab

J-Pole antenna build

Installing a PL-259 connector on Coax and Installing Powerpoles

Programming HT concepts and lab. (terminology of PL Tone, CTCSS, off set terminology)

Morse Code Training

It is recommended for the new Training Committee to utilize the Fourth Wednesday Activity Night (4WAN) as the designated day for conducting such classes.

The newly established Training Committee is not, in any way, restricted to utilizing solely the 4WAN slot for conducting classes. This new committee is open to scheduling additional classes at the clubhouse, provided that such scheduling does not conflict with any other club activities on the same day.

The Planning Committees intention is to assist the Training and Education Committee Chair up until such time as when new Training and Education committee members are selected and have established a viable training program with classes confirmed for at least six consecutive calendar months.

The committee recommends that the club leadership endorses these strategic initiatives and allocates re-



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

sources to support their implementation.

The future of the club relies on adapting to modern technology, engaging the younger generation, and continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of our members. By embracing innovative approaches and offering a diverse range of activities, we can work towards securing the sustainability and growth of our Club.

The Planning Committee's next strategic objective is to enhance Club Presence and Youth Engagement. This initiative encompasses aspects such as fortifying our social media presence, exploring other amateur radio-related activities, Hamfair outreach, W7DK representation at other area club events, and identifying avenues for the club's participation in such events.

And finally, the Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to Adam Barbera W2NCC, and Stephen Morton AD7AB, whose direct involvement was instrumental in the realization of this proposal. The Committee also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the members at large, whose insights and ideas formed the cornerstone of our work.

Respectfully submitted,
Manny Adonis AD7MA
Chair, Planning Committee

2024 Planning Committee

Manny Adonis AD7MA, Chairperson
Mike Isakson W7XH, Chair Membership Committee
BJ Rollison WO7T, POTA Coordinator
Stephen Morton AD7AB, Training Coordinator
Dave Ellison W7UUU, Editor, The Loggers Bark
Anne Ellison, N7ANN, Co-Editor, The Loggers Bark
Dave Ashley W7GEL – Member at large
David Stillwell AC7KP – Member at large
Deanna Jenks KA7DCX – Member at large
Becky Friedman KG7FZH – Member at large



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting Minutes October 12th, 2024

Meeting called to order at _____ 1300 _____.

Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? ☒ Y ☐ (10% of membership required to conduct business)

Flag Salute led by: Mike W7XTZ

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve Dightman, AF7YD and Al Burleson K7HW are neighbors at the Birch Creek Post Acute & Rehabilitation center in Tacoma. Steve is in room 301 and Al is in 409.

Former club member Paul (Pat) Cook K7RA in hospital with Lou Gerhig's (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), disease.

Visitors: Mickey Simson WD7EYS attended from Gig Harbor.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

The usual stuff: bills, bank statements, magazines and QSL cards. This month has seen a flood of Salmon Run Pledges.

Committee chairs should be submitting budgets for consideration now. Budgets will be approved every year, and that discussion should take place In December or January, so please send your budgets to the secretary. When the budgets have been received, the secretary will send out a .pdf with all the budgets for consideration / discussion.

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Budgets received as of 10/7/2024: Library, Membership, & Repeaters.

Visitors: Mick Simson WD7EYS attended

General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

Dave / RCT is still looking for someone to take the general meeting job off his hands. Dave mentioned that that his commitment to this important task ends in January 2025.

October meeting program will be DMR radio explained by PNW digital Group.

Dave is still looking for a new person to take over this important role.
N9VW Steve Vanwambeck did the presentation.

VE Report by John AC7WW

Your VE Team on Tuesday October 8TH hosted four candidates at the clubhouse. Seven exams were graded. Three passed their Technician Exam and one candidate failed to obtain an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Manny, AD7MA Leonard, KA7NWF

Rich, KK7VH Mike, W7XH

Rob, K7TGU Stephen, AD7AB

The next scheduled test session is November 12th.

Chair/ Committee head announcements:

Mike Isakson: Reports that the club has 354 members. 89 new members were added from January third to date. We are aging out. 253 of those members are 60 and above.

Mike thanks members for being open and welcoming to visitors who come to the club.

Nick, K7MO reports that the W7DK has been renewed for the next ten years. Nick was asked about the W7OS and was informed that Rob Lee K7TUG is the trustee for W7OS, and he is on track.

POTA coming up October 20th. May be a change of venue due to facilities... BJ also mentioned some items concerning the upcoming Bigfoot Special Event. October 15th to the 21st. Six stations will be online and the subject of QSL cards came up. In a short meeting after the general meeting, it was determined that QSL's will

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

be sent out after the event. Three members, Gary WG7X, Nick K7MO and Adam W2NCC volunteered to help with funding the cards and helping to run the QSL return efforts.

Manny Adonis had an announcement regarding training and operations classes coming up soon. AD7MA@w7dk.org for copies of Manny's planning committee report.

Manny asked Nathan KK7QND to be the youth coordination for the planning committee.

Lloyd AG7CX told us that (Puget Sound Repeater Group) PSRG advertises our last Saturday of the month swap meet on their repeaters and folks are showing up at the clubhouse as a result.

Important items coming up?

Elections! President Mike asked for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were submitted.

Bigfoot S/E

Bigfoot Special event! This is going to be a fun event and club-wide participation can occur if we all want in to the fun. If you wish to reserve a band / mode slot, just contact the band captains listed below, and they will put you on the schedule!

Details:

KEY DATES/TIMES: 0001 Oct 16 Zulu through 2359 Oct 21 Zulu (Oct 15, 1600, PDT through Oct 21, 1559, PDT)

MODES: CW, SSB, FT-8, FT-4, RTTY

BANDS: 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, 10M

Primary Callsign Band Captain Assignments

W7B - W8NGS

W7I - K7MO, KK7NYW

W7G - K7PIA, KD7SV

W7F - WG7X

W7O - W7UUU

W7T - W7MKE, W7XH

BJ KO7T is the event coordinator / manager / inventor. KO7T@outlook.com some band captains reported their station operators. He also asked the band captains to keep tabs on the various clusters to ensure as much coverage as we possibly can during this event.



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Mike W7MKE asked the assembled members about an upcoming Cub scout JOTA Saturday October 19th, 2024. He asked interested folks to provide their info to him for inclusion in the list. The event will be in Elma, Washington.

Adam W2NCC talked about the upcoming soldering class to be held at the clubhouse on October 23rd. This is part of what Manny discussed in his report to the membership on ongoing classes. The class is full at this time and possibly a second class will be held.

Member Questions?

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

President Mike asked Gary, Adam and Randy to form a committee looking for a new treasurer.

Jeff W8NGS worked the Fernando De Noronha, PY0F DX-pedition
BJ reported C21mm Narau on the air.

Adjournment at: _____1446_____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance list.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
General Meeting
October 12th, 2024

GENERAL MEETING



Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Eagles	Officers and Committee chairs listed at top of minutes.	Applies to All meetings. Officers and Chairs Clubhouse & Eagles
1	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
2	Mike Isakson	W7XH	2657
3	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	461
4	Manny Adonis	AD7MA	3028
5	Phil Shideler	KC7PS	2853
6	BJ Rollison	KO7T	3001
7	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
8	Dave Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
9	Lloyd O Brooks	AG7CX	2783
10	Nick Winter	K7MO	640
11	Anna Winter	K7ANA	2228
12	Jeff Winget	W8NGS	3110
13	Ollie Bond	AD7CC	2211
14	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2304
15	Dave Ashley	W7GEL	2987
16	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
17	Walt Morey	WA7SDY	2763
18	Dennis Nelbach	KJ7DDW	2866
19	Julie Cunningham	KK7VHG	3158

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

